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EDITOR'S FORWARD

by Anthony Crosswell

As we approach our next AGM we should reflect on the enormous success our President has brought to IAF in his two terms of office. It is with some sadness that we welcome his retirement and move into the new Presidency. Following on from the outstanding work done by our retired president Christian de Coune, Patrick was set a hard act to follow. He stepped up to the challenge with extraordinary vigour. His many years of previous work in IAF fitted him with an insight that enabled him in 6 short years to change the face of IAF beyond any expectation. IAF has quadrupled in size and is now truly the world-wide organisation that represents falconry. Often challenged in a time of cultural turmoil our sport has transcended differences and brought men together out of respect for falconry no matter where it is to be found.



A friend of ours died recently after a long battle with cancer. She was dedicated to the Arabian horse for many years and produced a pretty good magazine. If I apply her words to falconry it would go something like this:

All we want is to have fun so let's have fun, let the hawks and dogs have fun. Together we are the Club – lighten up. Yes we want to care for our hawks, yes we want great sport, keep it all in perspective and ENJOY ourselves. Look after our hawks, think about their futures, think about enjoying fine falconry, working with our beautiful dogs – imagine making them happy. If things don't go quite right take a step back and think calmly – we all make mistakes – have a little compassion!

And remember we are members of the Club because we love falconry – so let our actions be just that – our love that is falconry'

'Christian de Coune points out in this edition that the little word is important. Patience and determination work in harmony with people's better nature, kindness and consideration is constructive in a world where we could be ex-



ploited even by friends. Falconers can be their own worst enemies but remember, when there are those who cry wolf at every turn, the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. I like to fly hawks amongst other things, it makes me happy and I'm going to keep doing it just as the stockbroker who gets his kicks from playing the market or my doctor whose passion is to get people well. It's good to be a falconer and delight in the passion that you share too!

Anthony Crosswell
Executive Secretary IAF





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IAF OFFICERS 2006

President

Patrick **Morel**
Belgium
Tel +32 10 88 11 88, Mobile +32 495 18 82 77
E-mail: iaf.president@skynet.be

Vice President Americas

William F. **Johnston**
USA
Tel +1 508 529-3213, Fax +1 508 529-3213
Mobile +1 781 820-1324
E-mail: john4ma@earthlink.net

Vice President Europe-Asia-Africa-Oceania



José Manuel
Rodríguez-Villa
Spain
Tel/fax: +34 91 650 00 80,
Mobile: +34 608 611 156
E-mail:
jm.rodriguez-villa@aubisa.es

Dr J. Timothy **Kimmel**, Ph.D. - **Substitute Chairman**
USA
Tel: +1 620 792 9331 (W); +1 620 562 3509 (H);
Fax: +1 620 786 1164
E-mail: kimmelt@hbcomm.net

Majid **Al Mansouri**
United Arab Emirates
Phone: +971 2 6934606, Fax: + 971 2 6817357
E-mail: malmansouri@erwda.gov.ae

Christian de **Coune**
Belgium
Tel: +32 4 368 40 21, Fax: +32 4 368 40 15
E-mail: christian.decoune@belgacom.net



Dr Matthew **JG Gage**
United Kingdom
Tel +44 1603 592183,
Mobile +44 7815518278
Fax +44 1603 592250
E-mail: m.gage@uea.ac.uk

Executive Secretary

Anthony **Crosswell**
United Kingdom
Tel /Fax +44 1379 677 296
E-mail: gyr@gyrcross.freemove.co.uk

Dr Robert **Kenward**
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 1305 213606, Fax: +44 1305 213600
H +44 1929 553759, Mob 447720
E-mail: reke@ceh.ac.uk

Treasurer

Antonio **Carapuço**
Portugal,
Tel +351 919 728203
Fax +351 262 950 147
E-mail: a.carapuço@mail.telepac.pt



Frank M **Bond**
USA
Office: +1 505 988 5600
Home: +1 505-984 2061
Fax: +1 505 982 0185
Fax home +505 983 2999
E-mail: gyrfalk@aol.com



Advisory committee members.

Gilles **Nortier - Chairman**
France
H Tel +33 388 95 80 03
Fax +33 388 95 89 28,
Mob +33 689 21 84 03
E-mail:
gilles.nortier@libertysurf.fr

Janusz **Sielicki**
Poland
Off Tel +48 22 43 41 501
Mobile +48 502 19 60 61
E-mail: jsielicki@gfk.pl



Martin **Jones**
United Kingdom
Tel +44 1600 750 300 Fax +44 1600 750 450
E-mail: Martin@falconryonline.com

Alexander Prinz
Germany
Phone: +49 9231 503 122
Mobile: +49 171 200 7486
E-mail: anwarter@web.de

Information Advisors (not members of the AC)



Gary **Timbrell**,
Public Relations Officer
Ireland
Tel: +353 21 7730298 or
+353 87 6650619
E-mail:
iaf.informationbureau@dublin.com

Dr Jevgeni **Shergalin**
Scientific Information Advisor
Estonia/UK
Office +44 1267 233 864
Home +44 1267 229 218
E-mail: zoolit@hotmail.com



THOUGHTS ABOUT FALCONRY

Patrick Morel

The IAF will shortly celebrate its 40th anniversary. These forty years have seen an evolution of our sport which brings me to some thoughts about falconry.

Flights with the falcon from the fist or with short wings are hunting at its purest. A goshawk, a sparrow hawk, a rook-falcon or a houbara-falcon flying directly from fist to quarry is hunting and nothing else. Understandably then, those hunting techniques have remained practically unchanged for the last forty years.

It is completely different for waiting-on flights, where the aesthetic component is overriding. The caricature of this aspect is the development in several countries of those regrettable "sky-trials" or "pigeon-derbies". No dogs, no game, no search for quarry in its natural surroundings. Nothing to do with falconry! What can only be called "Bird-shows" are replacing hunting.



Long-wing hawking has changed a lot in the sixties in Europe as it is by now in the Middle East. Traditionally, much of falconry was based on the use of passage falcons. Falcons were trapped during their migration, trained in a few weeks, flown during the hawking season and then released at the time of their spring-migration. These hawks, so to say, were borrowed from the wild.



In the sixties, passage birds became scarce. Falconers moved to eyasses, which had to be taught everything. A different falconry. Older falconers used to the proud passage hawks were inclined to look down on eyasses.

Like their western colleagues, Arab falconers are confronted with the same problem, just forty years later. Due to the decrease in passage falcons, they are only now tending to turn towards captive-bred "eyasses". It is a complete change in their approach of falconry. The training techniques are so different that we may describe it as a "new falconry".

Everywhere, lots of falconers have changed their traditional techniques and have adopted the waiting-on technique that we know today. Everyone must act according to his environment, to his climate and weather conditions, to his quarry-species and, especially, to his own philosophy.

That is how, in the 1960's, different "schools" came into existence.

"The German School"

Prof. Christian Saar was the first who, in the late 1950's introduced real "waiting-on" flights, locally. Germany has always been much divided into small tracts; there are few large stretches of land. German falconers use large, powerful and fast peregrine falcons, with German or Scandinavian and Continental pointing dogs. Small hunting grounds and the search for efficiency require falcons that wait on about forty or fifty meters high, that are perfectly positioned and have tremendous speed. Most of the falconers of East-European countries are now addicted to this school and practise flights very close to these standards.

"The British School"

Prominent falconers like Ronald Stevens, Geoffrey Pollard, Steven Frank and, later, Roger Upton have revived, with great talent, the practices of the old Scottish tradition of game hawking. A less mechanical type of waiting-on falconry than in the German School, English pointing dogs are an essential part of the team. Of the flights practised, preference goes to partridge in the English plains and grouse in the immensity of Scottish moors. Passage peregrines from the gigantic British Empire were formerly much in use.



Jack Mavrogordato performed wonders simultaneously with crow-falcons in the Salisbury Plains—in the tradition of the "Old Hawking Club" and with shortwings. Gradually, as passage falcons have become unavailable, British falconers have switched to eyasses. Eyasses are put at hack.

"The Italian School"

It was lead by Dr Ernesto Coppaloni. He used to say that he did not like music, but that he liked only the symphony! Or also: "What is more beautiful than a hawk that (returns?) to the wild?" Understandably, that philosophy brought to waiting-on flights a completely different dimension. Fulco Tosti converts the "flight accident", thermal soaring out of sight, into a most controlled technique. This fabulous type of flight requires a long preparation that Fulco perfectly tuned during his experience in airfield bird control in Spain.

In her first year the falcon is flown daily in the traditional way, every flight being rewarded by a bagged quarry. In the second year, the season starts in the same way, but gradually the bird is introduced to light thermal lifts and then later to stronger ones. When the falcon flies back, a bagged quarry is released. In short, the *modus operandi* is the following: the falconer casts off the falcon and stays motionless; he has no dog. The falcon searches for an ascending warm current, sometimes far away. It may also happen that she disappears in the clouds while circling.

[In their early years, radio-tracking was unknown; it was frequently difficult or even impossible to locate the bird. Only experience and good eyes allowed the falconer to feel that his bird was over him, sometimes a thousand or a thousand, five hundred meters high.] The dogs are then set free and they start quartering; point. then flush! Partridges or bustards have time to fly before the hiss of a bomb crosses the sky.

This flight technique creates sights and emotions of extreme intensity. To me, it is at the top of the waiting-on flight. It has to be among the most thrilling contributions to the falconry of the Second Millennium! It was Fulco Tosti who introduced this flight to Felix Rodriguez de la Fuente; who soon became its passionate advocate. He benefited from wide expanses of land and from a dozen falcons for practising this type of flight.

"The Spanish School"

It is more like a "conservatory" of falconry under the aegis of Felix Rodriguez de la Fuente; the great falconer who, almost alone revived all the types of flight of the Middle Ages. He had tried everything, studied everything with passion and professionalism before he became a devotee of the Italian School. He was the only one in the world who had at his disposal such considerable means for practising falconry. He will remain one of the greatest falconers of the XXth Century.

"The Franco-Belgian School"

Naturally, French and Belgian falconers followed the evolution of the waiting-on flight that has taken place since the 60's in almost the whole Europe and in the United States. This evolution which was much inspired by the English School. The Franco-Belgian School however differs from the others: it is a successful combination of the characters



of the foreign schools: The British one for the difficult climate and the systematic dog-work, the German because of the small scale of the hunting grounds and quest for efficiency, the Latin Schools for the pursuit of beauty and style and for their climatic conditions. The Belgian falconers were the first ones to attain the means of flying exclusively at partridges. The French followed the example in Alsace, Beauce, Brie, Champagne and the Marne. The partridge is the most beautiful of our quarry species. Its flight at the end of the season in the empty plains requires high-flying and fast falcons. The necessary pitch is the same as for Spanish red partridges or little Bustard. The bad climatic conditions in the winter require from the falcon a greater effort compared to Mancha or Andalucia. The Italian falconers, outside their own country, as in Scotland, followed the same approach as the Belgians and the French.

It is noteworthy that this Franco-Belgian school has been followed by all teams flying in Scotland: Germans, Dutch and even British! Noteworthy too is that most of these falconers, in the spirit of that school (style and beauty), have moved southward. They've left the traditional grouse hawking grounds in the far North of Scotland –very flat, vast coastal plateaus- for Highlands. Within fifteen years falconers moved from gull-country to eagle-country! This migration has given these falconers the opportunity to enjoy great mountain flights, where powerful "lifts" replace the Spanish thermals.

It is worthwhile to understand the reasons of that evolution. Grouse-hawking in Scotland by international teams has its own specificity. We dare to say that the type of falconry that is practised there is now dominated by the spirit of an "Italo-Franco-Belgian" school. Without, of course, forgetting the contemporary great local masters, Geoffrey Pollard, Steven Frank and Roger Upton.

About the Franco-Belgian School, it may be pointed out that they have recently adopted modern techniques such as the use of kites for training their birds or putting them back in condition. Now, even great waiting-on flights in the Italian or Spanish fashion are feasible in our countries and several falcons have been very successfully flown in thermals. Combining these different techniques has given a new dimension to the waiting-on flight.

"The American School"



It has been deeply influenced by Europe and more particularly by the British falconers.

However it deserves to be called School in view of its great contribution to modern falconry. Free from centuries-old traditions, American falconers have observed the Europeans, but they haven't just copied them. Ingenious, creative and invention-thirsty, they have tried their hands at everything: flight techniques, appliances, facilities, breeding, hybridisation and, of course avian veterinary medicine.

America is a huge country, with extensive...and inexpensive... hunting possibilities. American falconers are very mobile. Some don't hesitate to leave for weeks or months with their 4x4, dogs and hawks for hawking sage grouse, prairie chickens or, in fact, most types of falconry quarry. Hunting can even take them from Montana or North Dakota to the Gulf of Mexico.

Americans hold all the potentialities for practising great falconry. This evolution is due to the fact that falconry is now open to everyone who, under careful, falconer-sponsored regulation, may practise it according to their means and to game and time availability. Thanks to climatic conditions that are often ideal, and thanks to fantastic biotopes, falconers have reached summits in the art of falconry. American falconers may be an example for falconers all over the world.

Out of the hood Hawking

Nowadays, crow hawking is practised by different "schools". The important differences show very well the impact on falconry of the philosophy of the falconer, the influence of local geography and the need to adapt to it or to benefit from it. Interestingly, it is little to be seen in the United States.

"The English School"

With a considerable tradition dating back even before the Old Hawking Club, Jack Mavrogordato and, more recently, Roger Upton fly mostly at rooks in England in the traditional way, near rook colonies from April to July. for



about the past ten years Nick Fox has flown at crows both in Wales and to the north in the most classical fashion on horseback with a team of 15-20 falcons and lots of horses.

“The Flemish School”

In Flanders, Charles Kruyfhoof used to fly at crows from December to March (after the homing pigeon season!). He flew in a less controlled manner mostly with passage birds. This great master of crow-hawking called himself a “privileged observer”. It was the bird who took the decision, led the manoeuvre and caught without help. Not completely obedient, the hawk was mostly taken back on its kill. The bird hunted as in the wild. A falcon “shepherding” a flock of crows and rooks is a scene that one has rarely the opportunity to admire.

“The Swiss and German School”

In Switzerland, Dr Pierre Basset is far away from the Flemish or English plains. The only flat and open spaces are lakes! He first flew at magpies with great success. But as the years passed, the magpie population got thinner. The reasons are mainly linked to the alteration of biotopes, like uprooting hedgerows. Pierre Basset decided then to apply to crows the technique of magpie hawking. He became Europe’s greatest specialist of these kinds of flights. He has lots of followers in Germany. A great example of adaptation! One of his falcons caught 1,157 crows in nine seasons and he is about to beat that record with another bird. It’s great sport, because crow and magpie hawking are by far not a restful activity!

Christine and Pierre Basset have acquired outstanding experience in this type of flight, in which the slightest mistake is fatal. Immediate analysis of the situation, quick intervention for helping the hawk, good breath, and, especially, good legs! His compatriot, Tony Lutz said about it: “if falconry is technique, crow-hawking is strategy”. The Swiss School has many followers. In Germany, Jürgen Schusster and many others have adapted this technique to hawk in enclosed terrain.

“Arab School”

They stick strictly to the traditions. Camels have been replaced by 4X4, but the hawking techniques have remained untouched. Arab falconers are experts in training and manning passage falcons. Until recently they didn’t know what a weight-scale was and their experience with “yarak” stems from generations of falconers.

The birds are flown at sight from the fist. Flights are more or less dramatic according to the behaviour of the game. They could be compared with our crow-hawking in the great plains. For the Arab falconers, falcons are primarily warriors. Criteria for judging a passage falcon are beauty, pride, power, speed and overall courage. The flight is almost invariably at the houbara bustard.

The Arabs to whom I praised the beauty of our waiting-on flights with their impressive stoops replied to me politely, but firmly, that those flights, albeit spectacular, were not really good sport for the prey. A philosophy certainly opposite to the Italian one, but not less worthy.

As passage sakers became scarcer, falconers from the Arab

Emirates have begun to replace them with captive bred birds. O tempora, o mores ! Times have changed, habits also and so too does falconry. They are adopting many of the techniques of modern Western falconry. They’ve chosen large hybrid falcons. Have they altered a bit the balance?-- the spectacle is less guaranteed. Great flights are becoming less frequent. Frightened by those large falcons, bustards appear reluctant to fly and tend to defend themselves on the ground.

Flights of the Future.

Unprecedented flights in modern falconry? Perhaps some alliance between classical and waiting-on flights is called for

Modern falconry means “adaptation”. Most traditional game species are on the decrease. Conversely, some birds, commensal with man, are increasing. This is the case with Wood Pigeons and feral pigeons as well as with starlings, gulls and, in some places, some doves.

The scarcity of traditional game brought me to consider redirecting some of my falcons toward unusual falconers’ quarry.

“Miscellaneous” are usually considered as a nuisance by waiting-on falconers because they divert the falcon. Why not treating them as true game?

Wood pigeons are abundant during the migration ; they are often seen as pests by farmers. Feral pigeons too are thriving in the fields. For lots of falconers who can no longer provide sufficient classical game to their falcons, such quarry may constitute an alternative that will offer new flight opportunities.

25th November 1996.

“As soon as she was unhooded, Alvie left the fist. At about 700-800 meters above her she has seen a flock of migrating wood pigeons circling above a little wood preparing to spend the night there. Some hundred wood pigeons fly rather high in the late afternoon and already some of the more daring ones alight in the trees.

Alvie has quickly gained much height and the pigeons have seen the hunting falcon in a distance and start scattering in all directions. 250 meters above the trees, Alvie has chosen her prey and starts to stoop. Her stoop is spectacular and the flock of pigeons explodes like fireworks. Alvie stoops again and again, missing the pigeons by centimetres; some feathers even fly.

The most cautious are already far away and fly in all directions. Alvie chooses a single bird as it moves off and starts chasing it.

The woodpigeon is hundred meters ahead of the falcon, but she catches up, meter by meter, with the short and powerful wing beats so typical of the hunting flight of the Peregrine. They head toward us, higher and higher, almost out of sight. Ultimately Alvie arrives at the level of the pigeon, succeeds in dominating it by some tens of meters: it’s really like a flight at heron or kite.

The two birds climb above us in large circles. As soon as Alvie is sufficiently higher than the pigeon, she starts a stoop that the woodpigeon avoids by zigzagging. Both



birds appear like falling leaves over a hundred meters, but the pigeon slips away at the very last second. At the end of the stoop, the pigeon outdistances the falcon by several tens of meters and we believe that she will give up. But Alvie never gives up, she will keep chasing her prey.

The flight moves off while gaining a few hundred meters pitch and they become two tiny dots, hardly visible. Back above us, we follow the fight with powerful binoculars. Not only did Alvie catch up to the pigeon, but she dominates it by several tens of meters; she tilts with closed wings. Both the birds dive at a tremendous speed, but once more the pigeon succeeds in avoiding the deadly stoop by a roll.

This scenario recurs 3-4 times. Every time, we think that the pigeon will outfly the falcon for good but Alvie follows her prey like a guided missile. The interesting thing is that the two birds fly away from us against the wind and come back with the wind. We don't need to move under the falcon: the whole flight is several hundred meters above us. Now the flight is directly above us, our neck aches and our eyes are smarting as we try to follow the whole contest in our binoculars.

Two tiny dots in the sky, one separates from the other and dominates it. This time has Alvie climbed much higher than the woodpigeon. She's up-wind and makes a false attack; the pigeon dives to escape. Alvie has lost only a few meters height, she gets back to her pitch 200-250 meters above her prey, has a look over her shoulder and stoops with the speed of lightning. The pigeon is obviously panic-stricken and heads to a bush in the middle of a field. After an endless stoop, the woodpigeon is hit at the moment it started braking to take cover.

This breathtaking flight has lasted for 23 minutes. Only attacks, no rest. None of the two fighters can be faulted; the pigeon tried everything he could: to outdistance with the turbo, diving close to the trees, feinting, dropping as a dead leaf, horizontal spins, spinning dives, looping, and tremendous swift nose-dives.

This flight was not the only one of this kind during the season; after a period of apprenticeship, for the falcon—and for us—Alvie has decided that this would be “her” quarry and she specialised in. From mid-October through the end of December, of a total of 104 kills, 44 were wild pigeons.

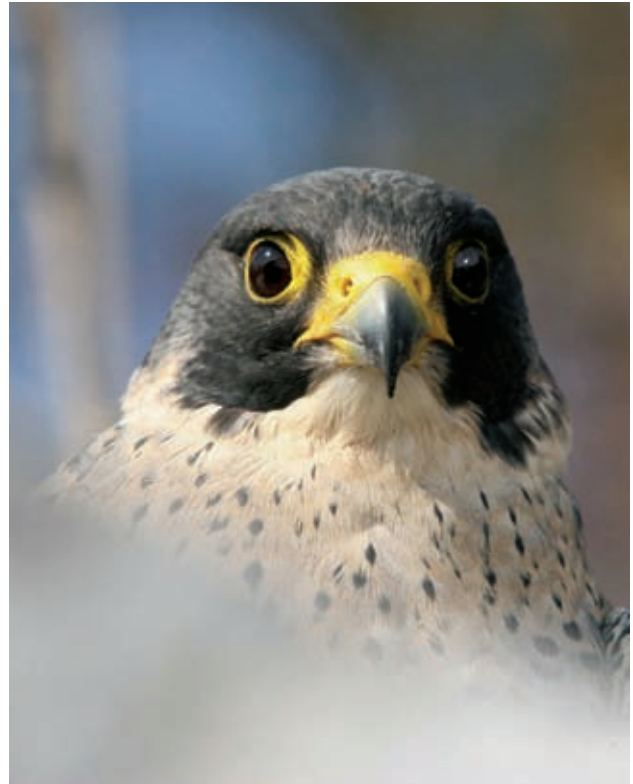
Woodpigeon flights are among the most spectacular that I have been fortunate to see. To me, for a falconry bird this is one of the most exacting flights. Few of our birds are capable of catching a passing feral pigeon or woodpigeon.

In spite of Alvie's physical condition, of those flights lasting for 10-35 minutes, the pigeon escaped three times out of four!

While many falconers have caught some woodpigeons by chance, none to my knowledge purposely has specialised a bird for that quarry-- at least no one has written about it.

It is possible that this flight is closest to the haut -vol (the “high flight”) as it was practised in the past, except that the woodpigeon is far faster and more agile than a crow, a heron or a kite.

In horizontal flight a woodpigeon seems equally fast as a falcon, certainly faster than any of our classical game-



birds, including ducks. certainly you need an especially self-confident falcon to attack a pigeon that is already on the wing; she must have an exceptional physical condition and a strong spirit. Needless to say that such flights are not for every falconry bird!

The obvious danger of such flights is that one risks that the falcon checks at domestic pigeons. This can probably be avoided by flying outside the season of pigeon races or by training the falcons in the midst of very large plains with pigeons impossible to catch. The falcon learns rather quickly that they can catch only hampered pigeons that are tossed to them when they come back over the falconer.

An important feature of this flight is that there is no problem finding game and that falcons or tiercels may be used. Woodpigeon is definitely one of those rare game species that allow tiercels to give their full power and prove that the quality of their flight is often higher than that of the falcons.

The flight at woodpigeon showed me new opportunities at a fast, agile and capable quarry. To any who have suitable hunting ground, I assure strong excitement and great spectacle.

Twenty-First Century falconry will become international falconry; utilizing exotic species, creating hybrids from worldwide sources, developing new technology and hunting new game species.

The birds of falconry are so easily persuaded to chase moving effigies that a poor kind of falconry could easily survive a total ban on hunting. Displays, sky trials and other spectacles are too often replacing traditional falconry. That kind of “falconry” would actually be a greater loss to falconers than to their birds, which as readily and zealously chase the artificial bird or rabbit as the real one, but the elements of surprise and the unexpected, unpredictable outcomes



inherent in the natural flights would be gone and, with them, the intriguing central heart of falconry. Falconry is a wonderful and insightful recreation, but one demanding of far too much time, knowledge, dedication and three-dimensional physical space to ever become popular.

The ultimate future of falconry has now become no different from that of similar field recreations based on hunting and with large-area requirements. All such are currently under persistent attrition-assault by subdivision-based propaganda-manipulative, activist groups. The ban of hunting with hounds and dogs in the UK is a warning signal.

It may be surprising to state that falconry has now attained levels unknown in the past, but paradoxically if many long-wing falconers do perform flights of a quality never reached before, short-wing falconry is seen by some to be diminished by the fashion of exotic easy to train birds - it's another falconry, a 'week-end falconry', probably popular but far from the standards of the traditional one.

Falconry deserves to stick to its roots. Let us not forget the definition of falconry: "Falconry is the traditional sport of taking quarry in its natural state and habitat by means of trained birds of prey. It is a hunting art."

Patrick Morel May 8th 2006

Congratulations to Robert Kenward



Oxford University has awarded Robert Kenward a Doctor of Science degree (DSc). This is the oldest and highest doctoral degree for scientists, which is granted, to a small proportion of the scientists who ended their studenthood many years earlier with a PhD (or at Oxford and Cambridge, a DPhil), after publications throughout a career have been reviewed.

Of the 100 papers that Robert submitted for review, two thirds included data on raptors. One of the papers, on "What happens to goshawks trained for falconry" was published in 1981 with Ian Newton, an honorary member of the British Falconers Club who is another of the few raptor biologists with a DSc. We would be pleased to know of any other falconers who hold a DSc or the equivalents in other subjects (e.g. Doctor of Law, Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Divinity).

BIOGRAPHIC ARTICLE OF FRANK BOND, VICE- PRESIDENT FOR THE AMERICAS (retired)

Having served two full terms as IAF Vice President for the Americas Frank Bond retired in 2005. Frank Bond is nominated by the Advisory Committee as candidate for the presidency of IAF in 2006 to succeed Patrick Morel.

Frank Bond, Falconer-Plus

S. Kent Carnie, Director, The Archives of Falconry



It's a challenge to introduce a falconer who should need no introduction but Frank Bond is such a person. For all his accomplishments for American falconry, Frank's name has never appeared on a NAFA ballot. Within our organization, although acting as Association General Counsel and a confidant and advisor to our Presidents, he is known better by his deeds than as a person. But there is far more to Frank Bond than being "just" a falconer.



Born in 1943 to a pioneering New Mexico family, Frank Bond is a resident of Santa Fe, New Mexico in the south-western part of the United States. Professionally he is a lawyer specializing in natural resource issues where he does complex trial work for private clients. Also he owns and operates two cattle ranches and has been active in the politics of his state.

Frank began his pursuit of falconry while he attended university 41 years ago. It has been his abiding passion around which he has built his life. Throughout the years he has flown goshawks and Cooper's hawks, but has concentrated mainly on longwings. Frank has long been involved in amateur captive propagation. He bred prairie falcons for the first time in 1972 and peregrines in 1977. He has flown peregrines many years, but has flown gyrfalcons almost continuously since 1975. In the last couple of years he has been flying his birds from horseback.

Frank was introduced to falconry by his college lacrosse coach, Robert ("Doc") Stabler, himself famed as the pioneer American falconer who identified the cause of and helped develop the cure for frounce. Frank has traveled extensively in Europe spending time with the likes of Jack Mavrogordato. During a year's study in Madrid, he saw much of Spanish falconry with Felix Rodriguez de la Fuente. By 1968 Frank had his Master's Degree—in Spanish literature (he's fluent in the language)—and in the 1970's responded positively, with his close falconer friends Jim Weaver and Bob Berry, when Tom Cade proposed they join together to form The Peregrine Fund. They all remain permanent board members of the organization.

The impact of that organization cannot be overstressed. As the first to systematically breed falcons in numbers, The Peregrine Fund bred and released thousands of peregrines back into the wilds in the US over twenty five years in the restoration of the species here. The importance of The Fund's role was exemplified in 1999 when the US Secretary of the Interior traveled 2,000 miles from Washington D.C. to the headquarters of The Fund in order to announce there the removal of the peregrine from the endangered species list. The prominent role of these falcon-

ers, functioning as The Peregrine Fund, has given falconry a tremendous advantage, conservation-wise, not only in the US but, indeed, throughout the world.

By 1970 Frank had also joined me in NAFA's Technical Advisory Committee in our efforts to obtain legalization and uniform regulation for falconry nationwide. In 1972, faced with my own military retirement and coming overseas residence, I got Frank to succeed me as chairman. He then shepherded through our first set of federal falconry regulations—regulations now enjoying considerable repute worldwide. Although I had resumed the committee chair in 1976 it was really Frank who, in 1978, orchestrated NAFA's successful efforts in our national congress to have an amendment placed in our Endangered Species Act to exempt captive bred peregrines for falconry use; this is the only special exemption in that law. To achieve the legal and regulatory results NAFA has had, Frank has met with Cabinet level Secretaries (Ministers) on matters related to falconry and captive propagation, he has made many presentations before the United States Congress and other governmental agencies and assisted with redevelopment of the eagle falconry regulations to implement a wild harvest of golden eagles for falconry purposes.

Recently he represented all American falconers, not just the NAFA membership, in national litigation to be able to take peregrines from the wild for falconry purposes. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has now granted a system to permit a wild harvest of nestling peregrines. His keen legal mind and astute appreciation (and manipulation) of the politics on the path we falconers must follow is directly reflected in the overall successes American falconers have enjoyed over the past two decades, to include overcoming the onslaught against our character by the now infamous Operation FALCON.

"On the side", despite representing a locally heavily-out-numbered political party, Frank twice won election to the New Mexico State House of Representatives where he served in the legislative leadership. In a subsequent bid for state governorship, the highest elected public office in the state, Frank won his party's election but unfortunately succumbed to the overwhelming name-recognition of his



former-governor opponent. In that election, the former President Bush campaigned personally for him. Frank has held numerous other public positions of responsibility.

In the midst of all this activity Frank studied for the bar and received his Doctorate of Jurisprudence in 1983, thence embarking on his subsequent successful practice of law. Not, however, to the exclusion of falconry. Frank has hacked prairie falcons with Tom Smylie and flown a series of peregrines (whose offspring were released into our western wilds by The Peregrine Fund). In 1975 he traveled north with Bob Berry to take some of the last legally-permitted gyrfalcons in Canada. One result of that trip was Koshare, a silver jerkin Frank took and trained. He flew Koshare for 7 years. In falconry 7 years is not such a short time but in those seven years Koshare caught all of the North American prairie grouse: sage, sharp tail, and prairie chickens as well as ducks, one time taking two drake mallards in a single stoop. That jerkin's tragic death while Frank was in law school cut short a career that had held as much promise as any game hawk flown in the US.



Frank long championed the IAF within NAFA and played a significant role in NAFA's joining the IAF. In 1998 he was invited to become an ex-officio member of the IAF Advisory Committee. Working with the other committee members he helped redraft the IAF Constitution and the corporate articles to become registered and recognized as a non-profit corporation under the laws of Belgium. With the revised Constitution, NAFA was accepted for membership at the IAF Annual General Meeting in Hungary. At that meeting Frank was elected Vice President for the Americas and to serve on the Advisory Committee, positions he continues to occupy. In the past he has attended various international conferences to represent NAFA. He has also represented the IAF at the CITES Conference of the Parties in Nairobi and Harare as well as several other major meetings.

In 1999, reflecting the breadth of his vision, in 1999, Frank was a founding member of the North American Grouse Partnership. A non-profit group, this organization founded largely by falconers now encompasses membership and support among a wide variety of hunters, and sportsmen as well as conservation organizations, all concerned with the well-being of populations of some of falconry's pre-eminent quarry species. Today, Frank serves on its Executive Committee, again playing a significant role in developing falconry's assets within the conservation world.

Still an active falconer, Frank is enthusiastically anticipating a new gyrfalcon this season with dreams of sandhill cranes as a new challenge. If this account seems one-sided, it is only because I write mostly of the matters of interest to the falconry community. Frank's life is far from one-sided. In his younger years he was an outstanding skier, he is an excellent horseman and his photographic abilities (he studied under Ansel Adams) are awesome—now, if we could only get him to photograph birds in addition to his landscapes and portraiture.

In all that he has done Frank has shown himself to be not only a true falconer of our time, but a man of great vision for our sport. In 2002 I had the honor to present Frank with the joint Archives/NAFA Falconry Heritage Award. As I stated in that presentation, in the almost forty years that I have known Frank Bond he has continually impressed me with his ability to accomplish—and accomplish well—anything to which he puts his mind—except to play the banjo, but that's another story.





A FEW COMPARISONS

Bill Johnston – VP Americas

In October 2005, I had the pleasure of attending my first European Falconry Meet. Many years ago I did, by invitation of Alan Gates, join the British Falconers Club for a one day hunt at Castle Howard in the North of England.

The Czech Falconers' Club meet in Opcno was a fantastic opportunity to spend the better part of a week in the company of European Falconers. Organized and divided into flying groups, longwings, shortwings (mostly goshawks) and Eagles, there is a social aspect and formality in Europe that is largely absent in US Falconry.



I started my career as an aspiring austringer almost 40 years ago with an imprinted Red-Tail Hawk that I took from the nest as a large downey. A few "old world" books were my only guidance in that ill-fated endeavor. There were no mentors, no standards and precious few people to turn to for advice. In fact, at the time, there weren't any falconry regulations. I ended up rationalizing my endeavors through a salvage permit. Not something that would have stood up to close scrutiny.

Falconry in the United States when I made my first excursions into the sport was a lot like the old wild west, no rules; do what you want, and best of luck. No wonder some were never heard from again!

The United States Government amended the migratory bird act to allow falconry. Each state was, and still is; free to adopt their own regulations which must be at least as restrictive, but no more liberal than the federal regulations. That was some thirty plus years ago. The last and 49th State to allow falconry was Connecticut. Well populated with 'greens', legal practicing falconry has only become a reality within the last year.



Frank Bond did an excellent power point presentation of Early American Falconry when we met in Opcno for the 2005 IAF AGM. Frank described the short, but dramatic evolution of the sport here, including some of the pioneers, the birds they flew, the development of new techniques, equipment and the formation of NAFA. Unlike Europe, most things American are done without convention and minus the niceties of collaboration. Part of the early ethic of striking out alone without reflecting on the effect it might have on the course of events or others is still alive today. It has lead to dramatic invention and innovation in the birds we breed, the mechanics we use to train them such as kites and balloons and the commonplace, mass production of radio telemetry for tracking lost birds. It has also led to fierce independence by some in thought and action.



We in the United States are blessed with some outstanding falconry opportunities. Liberal hunting laws, abundant game in our Midwestern and Southwestern sections of the country and lots of open land to hunt on. Where property is privately owned, most landowners are gracious



about allowing access to hunters. Often American Falconers become proprietary with regard to their "rights" on a given piece of land. Never mind that there are plenty of places to hawk, having secured permission, they view it as theirs. They sometimes hunt in secrecy, alone for the most part or occasionally with one or two trusted companions. What these unfortunate falconers are missing is the joy of sharing all the other parts of the experience. In Europe time honored tradition and protocol are celebrated. Falconry and hunting sports have a long rich history and are respected by both participant and spectator alike. One does not simply pick up ones bird and go hawking. Where hunting land is a precious commodity and decorum is expected, a high sense of community and group celebration of the hunt seems the norm. Your history and time honored customs weave a rich tapestry that we in the US are only beginning to acquire.



That's not to say we don't have fun, however. Particularly at a NAFA Meet where things are organized and people from distant parts can choose who they wish to see fly, or where best to go for a slip. The meet coordinator works with the state falconry club, local landowners, designated tour guide/ falconers and business to ensure that everyone gets to see and do what they came to the meet for. Here, there is less formality of etiquette and dress. Celebrating the hunt is a more esoteric experience and we don't display the same open reverence for the quarry taken, as was done in Opcno. We do congratulate each other for a good day and a good flight. Often this entails a visit to the local dram shop, very similar to my European experience! insert picture from CD – Chase on rock 1

In my many long years as a falconer, I have never seen an unhooded goshawk in a restaurant or pub. Local health codes and freaked out accepters work to prevent this. In Opcno, whereas the falcons were hooded, the shortwings were not. Falconers strolled leisurely amongst the crowd with goshawks and eagles perched nonchalantly on their fists. Never in America, it's just not done!

What I love about my international exposure is the added dimension of different views and prospective. Diversification and inclusion are good things! Like meeting new people at a NAFA meet, thus boarding your view and knowledge, extending that to a global outlook adds more depth and understanding.

Funny how different we are at the start, but how much alike we find ourselves once we begin to share the passion and the brotherhood of the falconry fraternity.

FALCONRY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Dr. Bohumil Straka

Czech Falconry Club and statistics

Falconry in our county has always been quite popular and strong and it dates back here since the 5th century A.D. The emblem of our club – falconer on a horse is dated by archaeologists to Great Moravia empire time in the 9th century. Since the second half of the 18th century, like elsewhere in Europe, falconry in our country declined; however, there were always some people keeping the tradition and practicing falconry even in bad times.

A new stage for falconry in our country began in 1967, when Czech Falconry Club (Klub sokolniku CMMJ) was founded as the only club organizing falconers in the Czech Republic. We have currently 426 members. Czech Falconry Club is a part of Czech-Moravian Hunting Union having almost 100,000 members. Internally, our falconry club involves 20 district groups having up to fifty members. Although some members are passive, majority of the members have one or more hawks and a great part of members are active falconers. Last year the club registered 23 new members, who successfully passed the special annual falconry examination, which is required by laws and which is necessary for membership in our club.



Members of our club bred about 300 birds of which are about: 70 peregrines, 60 sakers, 100 falcon hybrids, 10 gyrs, 20 harrises, 10 golden eagles, 10 goshawks, a few merlins, kestrels, imperial and tawny eagles etc. In the last decade 3000 birds in total (of which over 2000 falcons) were bred. The club registers currently following birds: 312 goshawks (mostly females), 73 sakers, 64 falcon hybrids, 61 peregrines, 43 golden eagles, 26 harrises, 6 sparrow-hawks, 5 kestrels, 5 eagle owls, 5 red tails, 2 common buzzards, 2 tawny eagles, 2 gyrs and 2 lanners. The club registers only hawks used for hunting. The total number of



hawks kept by falconers for breeding and other purposes, which is registered by the local authorities, is about triple. Goshawks stay the most important "national falconry" bird, but there is clear gradual change in favour of falcons and Harris. We have observed for several years that the goshawk becomes less available for Czech falconry and immature goshawk becomes rare to see in autumn field meetings. In the last century it was normal to get a common species, such as goshawk, from the wild. Nowadays authorities are reluctant to issue licences for wild goshawks despite the fact that falconry is directly listed in the new environment law as the legal derogation reason and despite goshawk is very common and its population stable, if not growing. Czech falconry has been based on goshawks for a long time and currently still about 50% Czech falconers use goshawks for hunting, although many falconers moved to falcons in the last decade. We are concerned that many falconers could give up falconry, because they cannot afford or are not interested to move to falcons. Fortunately the number of bred goshawks is gradually increasing as well as number bred harrises as the potential replacement of goshawks. We also hope that the regional authorities will start to issue more licences for wild goshawks in the future.

Overview of Czech legislation related to falconry

New hunting, environmental, CITES and animal welfare laws were created in hectic 2001-2004 period as a consequence of so called "approaching EU and its legislation". The Hunting Act, which was prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, is positive towards falconry because of our good contacts and relations with this Ministry. The new act gives falconry a legal official status, while previous hunting act just tolerated falconry at the level of ministry executive regulation. All subsequent ministry regulations, which describe practical impacts of this law, are also useful and positive for falconry. Especially useful is the ministry executive regulation, which extends the falconry hunting period for hares and pheasants as compared with shooting. The new falconry examination, now officially recognised by laws, is more demanding than before, but the number of new successful members indicates that the demands are reasonable and not are not prohibiting.

The Environmental law turned to be positive towards falconry. Originally very negative draft involved obligatory DNA tests for all raptors at owners' expenses and risk, limited and strict licences to breed, no more hybrids, no more birds from the wild. This draft was prepared by the Ministry of Environment, which is partly controlled by green activists - some of them have very extreme opinions. Our effort and influence contributed that the bad draft was rejected by parliament. We went on with our effort, bypassed the ministry officers and after 20+ times visits in Czech parliament and with the support of IAF and Czech-Moravian Hunting Union, we were able to push through our proposals in the final act. Another contributing factor was that the Ministry was under pressure because of two medialised scandals: an environmental inspector smuggled rare orchids from the New Zealand and an officer at CITES department was sent to prison for taking bribes for "priority" arrangements of CITES applications. The act itself is generally positive to falconry, even better than the old environmental law, because it means less bureaucracy, power is moved from central ministry more to regions and there are less restrictions: no obligatory DNA tests,

no sorting for licensed and unlicensed breeders, hybrids allowed, possibility to obtain birds of prey from the wild. The only problem is that the ministry is so prejudiced that they break the law and they tend to interpret it their way. Therefore we prepare a few exemplary cases for administrative justice at the moment. Our neighbours – Slovak falconers have recently proved this strategy successful.

The Animal welfare act, which was prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, is not harmful for falconry despite it is stricter than the previous one, e.g. it limits training of animals, circuses and experiments on animals, but it means no threat to falconry. Our club uses "Rules for keeping birds of prey and owls" - a document which is recognised by the ministry, so a general strict rules such as licence for every single public display with birds of prey or special examination and qualification for people who transport animals are not applied for normal falconers. We and IAF helped recently to our neighbours – Slovak falconers to turn their negative Animal welfare act draft towards positive, however this must be still approved by Slovak parliament. At the moment however, we are afraid of the spreading of avian flu, which could bring some restriction from vet authorities.

The CITES act, which was prepared by the Ministry of Environment is basically the previous CITES act with updated EU requirements. It seems not to be harmful for falconry. It brings more bureaucracy for normal falconers and local officers, but on the other hand it can be useful for some falconers, who often travel or sell birds in EU, because of the "yellow" CITES paper, which is issued by local officers.

Other activities

Apart from the legislation activities, Czech Falconry Club tried to influence positively the public opinion through mass media and exhibitions more than in other years. A new official internet page of Czech Falconry Club is available now with separate info for general public and members: <http://www.sokolnictvi.net>

In the future our club would like to focus even more on raptor protection programs, science and cultural heritage, because these are useful means how to protect and preserve falconry for the future. We coped with the "first wave" of new laws, but there may be more threats for falconry during time. Member of our club participate in several release programs, unfortunately these good efforts are often chicaned or even banned by bureaucracy. We are going to write more scientific papers and present it at local and international conferences. Concerning cultural heritage, our main aim is to reach recognition of the Czech or central European falconry as the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage. Our country has not signed yet the UNESCO Convention For the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Culture, which is responsible for signing it, is only starting a relatively long process of its acceptance, which should take about one year. Even if we have had no experience so far with this ministry, now we are in contact with several dedicated officers at the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We are also going to visit personally Minister of Culture and ask him if the approval could be speeded up. Anyway, we are going to spend time before the acceptance well with the preparations of all the necessary material for UNESCO submission. Currently our country has 12 tangible UNESCO heritage recognitions and recently Czech Republic gained first intangible heritage – "Slovak ver-



bunk", which is a traditional folk dance in eastern Moravia region. We contacted people from the National department of folk culture, who prepared this submission to get the useful know-how, even if Slovacky verbunk was approved according to the old rules for intangible heritage. As we know, there is a tendency in UNESCO to limit number of heritage recognitions and to prefer more new intangible heritage rather than new tangible. And this is a good chance for us!

IAF meeting in Prague-Opocno

The IAF Annual General Meeting was held in Prague and Opocno from October 2nd to 9th. This was the most important international event in history of our Czech Falconry Club and one of the largest falconry meetings in Europe in last 250 years. Over 300 falconers with 130 hawks from 25 countries of 4 continents visited the traditional 38th international field meeting Opocno as a part of IAF meeting. In total 62 IAF delegates and guests came to the IAF AGM. Most of IAF delegates visited the field meeting without their birds, but ten of them actively enjoyed the field meeting with their hawks.

A majority of IAF delegates came to the capital (Prague) during Sunday October 2nd. On Monday 3rd we visited a site of Czech-Moravian Hunting Union in centre of Prague and after lunch, group of IAF delegates visited a small brewery in the centre to taste various types of national Czech drink – beer. Some delegates preferred to visit historical centre of Prague guided by our members or on their own. In the evening, we had an informal dinner in one of the finest Prague restaurants – Obecni dum. On Tuesday 4th IAF officials had Advisory Committee Meeting, while others were guided to city of Prague for sight-seeing and souvenir shopping. In the evening we had the official welcome social evening with VIPs, where Minister of Agriculture and highest officials of Czech-Moravian Hunting Union and State Forests were present. Minister of Agriculture gave audience to all IAF delegates and he presented them with souvenirs.

On Wednesday 5th early morning we moved to Opocno chateau about 150 km to the east of Prague, while ladies had a special guided tour to The National Horse Breeding Farm in Kladruby. The main part of IAF meeting - council of IAF delegates was held in historical hall at Opocno chateau, where our Czech falconry club was established 38 years ago. In the middle of the very intensive meeting we had a break for the official lunch in a traditional restaurant with Czech hunters cuisine and then the meeting went on till late afternoon. Concurrently with the council of delegates, there was a falcon competition, whose aim was to reach 300m high balloon as fast as possible. In the evening there was IAF an official social event with live Czech traditional folk music and dancing.

Thursday 6th was the first day of 3-day international field meeting. In the morning Opocno priest held St. Hubert Mass in local church for the success of hunting. Then the field meeting was officially opened at the chateau square by a traditional historical style ceremony in presence of VIPs, local and foreign guests and general public. Almost 130 hawks were organised in two groups with 33 goshawks, four groups with 47 falcons, three groups with 30 eagles and one group with 15 harrises and 1 red-tail. Falconers hunted in first 10 of 30 hunting grounds

around Opocno. IAF delegates were brought to the fields by our members in groups of hawks they had chosen. In some groups hunting was split by lunch break in two parts. Gamekeepers in some locations provided lunch at their hunter cottages, while others used a local pub for refreshment. In the evening there was an official closure of the day at the chateau square giving last honour to the caught game. All the hunting experiences of the day were consequently discussed and shared with other falconers in Opocno pubs enjoying good meal and famous Czech beers.

Friday 7th was another day of the field meeting. The official opening of the day was again at the chateau square, but before that, many of falconers found time to visit an exhibition on the history of Czech falconry at the Chateau. IAF delegates having hawks stayed with the same groups, but most of IAF delegates changed their groups from the previous day to see performance of different hawk. At the end of day IAF people had a special guided night sight-seeing in Opocno chateau to visit the historical interiors with its rich collections.

Saturday 7th was the last day of the field meeting. After the usual opening of the day at the chateau, we moved to a near hill to see a flying display exhibition for general public performed by group of our members. After the display, we left for fields for last hawking. When we returned from the fields, there was the final official closure of the day at the chateau. Falconers took 177 pieces of game in total of which 102 hares, 65 pheasants, 3 ducks and 7 roe-deer. In the evening we had the final social evening and ball for all falconers with live music. At midnight the best and the worst hawks and falconers were evaluated, a rich raffle was drawn and the meeting was officially closed. Then many of falconers kept dancing till morning.

Sunday 8th morning we said goodbye to Opocno and each other and departed home. Every IAF delegate received freshly burned video CD to keep their memories. IAF delegates who came by planes were taken by bus back in Prague. Some of delegates decided to change their flights for later day to see more of the capital. Sun was shining pretty nice making good mood during our departure. We were really lucky to enjoy a very nice weather for all days of the meeting – someone concluded: "you must also have had a direct line to the heavens to have achieved such perfect weather".

The next 39th international field meeting will be held again in Opocno castle from October 11th to October 15th 2006. Everyone is welcomed to come again.

Dr. Bohumil Straka, Czech Falconry Club, February 2006







NOTICE OF 37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006

This is notice to the members of the IAF
for preliminary information for the AGM
in Kearney, Nebraska for the
NAFA/IAF meetings 19th-24th November, 2006
For further enquiries please contact
the Co-ordinator for NAFA

Ralph Rogers
Co-ordinator for NAFA
Email: nafanew@ttc-cmc.net
or

Gary Timbrell, Public Relations Officer
Kilnagnady, Upton,
Co.Cork, Ireland.
Tel: +353 21 7730298 or +353 87 6650619
Email: iaf.informationbureau@dublin.com

IAF AGM Special Invitation

Kent Carnie, Curator of The Archives of Falconry of The Peregrine Fund takes great pleasure in inviting the Council of Delegates of the International Association for Falconry, immediate family members, the NAFA officers and directors to visit The Archives of Falconry in Boise, Idaho.

Date: November 20, 2006

Transportation provided without charge by chartered aircraft, departing from Kearney, Nebraska to Boise, Idaho and return. Details to be provided.

We look forward to this opportunity to show The Archives of Falconry's efforts to preserve falconry's history and heritage. This year is our twentieth anniversary and we are opening the newly completed Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Memorial Bedu Falconry Heritage Wing. There will be other tours available of The Peregrine Fund's Interpretative Center, Scientific Library and Breeding Facilities. Lunch will be served.

Please reserve a space at your earliest convenience by contacting Bill Johnston, IAF Vice President for the Americas, with your name and email contact. IAF Officers and Council Delegates, an immediate family member, and NAFA officers and directors will be accommodated first. As there will be limited space on the airplane, other people attending the IAF AGM in conjunction with the NAFA Field Meet may be invited on a space available basis.

Contact: Bill Johnston
Email: john4ma@earthlink.net
Telephone: ++508-529-3213
Address: 8 Oak Knoll Lane
Upton, MA 01568-1553 USA

Agenda for the 37th AGM of IAF in Kearney, Nebraska

Thursday 23 November 2006 – Friday 24 November 2006

Thursday 23 November 2006

- 07.00 Registration
07.30 Coffee
 08.00 Opening by the President
 08:10 Address by NAFA
 Approval of the minutes of the AGM 2005 in Opcno – Tony Crosswell
 Candidatures – President
 Financial report 2006 ; budget for 2007 – Antonio Carapuço
 President's report – President
 VP report Bill Johnston
 VP report Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa
10.30 Coffee Break
 Membership Liaison – Tony Crosswell
 Report of the PR officer – Gary Timbrell
 Reports of the chairmen of the Working Groups:
 WG EU BERN Convention – Christian de Coune
 WG IUCN – Robert Kenward
 WG Eastern Middle Easter Relations - JM
 WG CIC- Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa
 WG BASS – Robert Kenward
 WG CITES – Tony Crosswell
 WG FACE – Christian de Coune
 WG Science Committee – Tim Kimmel
 WG CHARTER – JM
13.00 Lunch and Photograph Session for Newsletter.
 Delegates may go hawking in the afternoon

Friday 24 November 2006

- 07.30 Coffee**
 08.00 Reports of the delegates
10:30 Coffee Break
 40 years of the IAF – past and future – President Patrick Morel
11.30 Elections
 President
 Vice President for Europe
 Appointment of:
 Executive Secretary
 Treasurer
 Chairman of the Advisory Committee
 Advisory Committee members
 Miscellaneous
 AGM 2007 (place and date)
 Delegates may go hawking in the afternoon
 19.00 NAFA Meet closing banquet in Banqueting Room: Smart or national dress



THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FALCONRY AND CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY

AGM MINUTES 2005 5 October 2005 POPCNO – CZECH REPUBLIC

09.00 Registration

23 nations represented at this meeting.

09.30 Coffee

10.00 Opening by the President

10:05 Address by the Czech Falconers' Club

There then followed a speech by the Czech Falconers Club from Petr Zvolanek President welcoming delegates to this meeting and the Czech Republic. 38 years ago the Czech falconers club was formed in this room and it was now significant that IAF had come to hold their AGM in the same place.

Approval of the minutes of the AGM 2004 UAE – Tony Crosswell signed by the president



Candidatures - President

Belgium: Studiegroep Behoud Valkerij (SBV) delegate club secretary made a presentation by power point. Founded in 1994 and today has 70 members who have 62 longwings and 63 shortwings etc. Their club revives falconry in a tradition border area of the country to maintain the heritage. They attend shows and fairs to educate the public about falconry as well as providing field meets for members and social events with other clubs.

Christian de Coune made a statement asking for unity in clubs rather than division and proliferation of many clubs. Nick Fox asked how many members of this club also belonged to other clubs already members of IAF. A vote was called for: Christian de Coune said that he was against. AKB raised the subject of the difficulty of many clubs from one country and divisions within a country should be sorted out before being brought to IAF and creating division. Gilles Nortier said that increasingly applicants were small clubs and it is difficult to say no if they conform to the constitution but for IAF we have to be loyal to our current members and we must think about the future when more small clubs will bring us more conflict. The AC advises that we have in this coming year to establish new criteria for membership and we will be consulting members about this. Janusz Sielicki asked if there is any division in Belgium that causes a problem.

Bill Johnston commented that if NAFA was not an umbrella organisation they could have many clubs.

Vote for 7 – against 9 – abstention 5

Germany: Greifvogel Zucht Verband (GZV)
Postponed because it does not conform to the criteria.

Japan Falconers Association: Presentation by the delegate. About 10 groups of up to 400 people in Japan. They have tried to make an umbrella group but 8 groups refused to join. So this group has now applied to join IAF with 180 members who fly together and share field meetings.

Keiya Nakajima commented there is no problem with this membership for IAF and Czech said they would support.

Vote for 20 – against 0 – abstention 1

World Falconers Club: Presentation by the president in Japanese. The club started 5 years ago with total members today of 65, mostly active falconers and also some are breeders. Nick Fox said that he has personally hunted with these people in difficult circumstances with 2 problems – supply by import or breeding, regulation problems, long cultural tradition which they are trying to revive a preserve, please vote for. Mr Nakajima asked what is their reason for joining IAF. Reply 2 ½ years ago they decided they needed support and regulation and for changes to regulation thus they need help from IAF. Gilles Nortier asked if they could get support from the existing member. Reply – they need ideas from other members rather than specific help. JM - there is a National Conference for Falconry in Japan – is there any plan for that to join IAF? How many groups in



the National Conference – 9. Mr Nakajima commented about his groups activities in Japan and suggested that much of their reason for joining was to help their commercial work and he does not recommend joining this group. Alexander Prinz asked if they were connected to a pet shop and would this bring IAF bad publicity – yes they are. Nick Fox said that we should bear in mind that taking the hawk from the wild is illegal and they can only get hawks commercially through raptor shops. Mr Nakajima said that they try to breed native species from injured birds for falconry to avoid the import system.

Vote for 10 – against 3 – abstention 8

Philippines: Philippine Falconry Club
Not enough information - postponed

Ukraine: Kiev Falcon Club
Postponed

Serbia: Serbian Falconers Club
Applied in 99 but information incomplete and only now have they supplied proper application. 17 members – Janos Toth said he is representing them and told us a little about their activity. Hungary has connections with Serbia for 10 years

Vote for 18 – against 1 – abstention 2

UK - Hawk Board has applied for Supporting Member and after signing MoU - application for Hawk Board was in error as full member and should be as Supporting Member. After some discussion Nick Fox, Vice-Chair of UK Hawk Board, confirmed that application is for Supporting Member status. Nick Fox read out the MoU (see President's report).

Vote for 18 – against 0 – abstention 3

Constitutional Changes – Frank Bond

The IAF received a letter from the Belgian Ministry of Justice, after review of the IAF Constitution by an assistant of the Minister. Christian De Coune kindly translated that letter to English. The Ministry advised that for the IAF Constitution to be in compliance with Belgian law, certain changes needed to be made for final approval. President Patrick Morel requested that I draft the suggested changes for consideration by the Council of Delegates at our AGM in the Czech Republic.

The changes may be found in the draft Constitution in the sections noted. Language stricken through is proposed to be deleted and language underlined is proposed to be added. For the explanation of the changes, I quote directly from the Ministry's letter, as translated by Christian De Coune:

Re. New constitution of the international non-profit association "IAF"

Pursuant to the examination of the draft new constitution of the above mentioned international non-profit association, following remarks need to be forwarded to you:

Article 1:

It is important to specify that the association is ruled by

the provisions of title III of the Law of 27th June 1921 on non-profit associations, foundations and international non-profit associations and remove all other legal references.

Article 12.1:

It is important to mention the person(s) competent for signing actions that bind the association and to pursue judicial actions either as claimant or as defendant.

Article 12.3:

The last subparagraph of the provision must be removed.

Article 13.1:

- I inform you that the law of 30th June 2000 has waived the requirement of Belgian citizenship for one of the members of the governing body of an international association.

- Reference to the Law of 25th October 1919 must be removed.

Article 13.3:

It is important to specify the way of the invitations to the Advisory Committee.

Article 13.4:

It is important provide for a quorum of votes for the decisions of the Advisory Committee.

Article 19:

The last sentence of the provision should be replaced by: "The amendments to the constitution will enter into force only after the approval by the competent authority according article 50 § 3 () of the Law and after publication in the Annexes du Moniteur Belge according article 51 § 3 of the said Law".*

Article 20:

The net assets after clearing of the accounts may be distributed to the members not exceeding the amount of their contribution (not of their dues paid) and must in any case be allocated to an aim without interest at stake.

It is usual to have a final provision stating that all what has not been foreseen in the constitution will be subject to the provisions of Title III of the Belgian law 27th June 1921 on non-profit associations, foundations and international non-profit associations.

I added a final new Article 21 to comply with the final observation. Please review the sections to find my suggested changes.

Vote for 21 – against 0 – abstention 0





FINANCIAL REPORT 2005; BUDGET FOR 2006

ANTONIO CARAPUÇO

2006 Budget

2006 Income		%
Balance carried forward*	- €	0,00 %
Members contribution	17.500,00 €	100,00 %
Donations income	- €	0,00 %
Other incomes	- €	0,00 %
Sales	- €	0,00 %
Total	17.500,00 €	100,00 %
2006 Expenditure		%
Secretariat	5.000,00 €	24,32 %
Newsletter expenses	4.600,00 €	22,37 %
Travelling expenses and accomodation*	10.000,00 €	48,64 %
Subscriptions	260,00 €	1,26 %
Donations	300,00 €	1,46 %
Boutons	- €	0,00 %
Bank charges	200,00 €	0,97 %
Web expenses	200,00 €	0,97 %
Total	20.560,00 €	100,00 %
2006 Surplus	- 3.060,00 €	

2004 Accounts

2004 Income		%
Surplus (31-12-2003) carried forward*	489,85 €	2,16 %
Members contribution	17.146,450 €	75,60 %
Donations income	3.978,67 €	17,54 %
Other incomes	159,00 €	0,70 %
Sales	907,77 €	4,00 %
Total	22,681.74 €	100,00 %
2004 Expenditure		%
Secretariat	3.585,46 €	22,55 %
Newsletter expenses	4.150,00 €	26,10 %
Travelling expenses and accomodation	5.348,09 €	33,63 %
Subscriptions	253,79 €	1,60 %

Donations	- €	0,00 %
Boutons	1,276.43 €	8,03 %
Bank charges	392.78 €	2,47 %
Web expenses	896.47 €	5,64 %
Total	15,902.02 €	100,00 %
2004 Surplus	6,778.72 €	

Financial report 2005

Expenditure	
Secretariat	3.092,80 €
Newsletter expenses	4.600,00 €
Travelling expenses and accomodation	2.387,56 €
Subscriptions	- €
Bank charges	110,52 €
Web expenses	181,59 €
Total	10.372,47 €

Values 3rd quarter

Financial report 2005

Income	
Surplus (31-12-2004) carried forward	6.778,72 €
Members contribution	12.613,75 €
Donations income	566,37 €
Other incomes	- €
Sales	- €
Total	181,59 €

Accounts approved
Vote for 21 – against 0 – abstention 0





PRESIDENT'S REPORT AGM 2005

On behalf of IAF, I would like to express our sincere thanks for the outstanding organization of the Czech Falconers Association and especially to Petr, Bohumil, Jana and Marcela. I would like also to thank the Hunters Association and especially Mr Broukal and Mr. Kralicek. Their friendly attitude towards the IAF delegates and the patience they showed during the visits resulted in feeling like "visit to old friends". The official social evening in Prague was memorable. We appreciate the work of the Czech hunters, who take care of the small game; it would be impossible to practise the art of falconry without their work and care. Thanks for your support to Czech falconry as a living part of Czech hunting and for your help to falconry during the complex legislation process in the last period. We were also surprised and delighted with your pleasant presents and gifts.

The falconer's community lost some prominent friends last year. The president paid tribute and asked a minute of silence in memory of HH Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan - UAE ; Ron Hartley - Zimbabwe ; Givi Chogovadze - Georgia ; Will Shor and Morley Nelson - USA

The Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in the State of Idaho was renamed as the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation area in honour of the late Morley Nelson, an international authority on birds of prey.

Starting in the 1950s, Morley Nelson spent decades convincing ranchers and farmers not to shoot raptors, but rather to accept them as an integral part of the ecosystem. Morley Nelson raised public awareness about birds of prey through scores of speeches with an eagle on his fist, and through dozens of movies and TV specials starring his eagle or hawks, including seven films for Disney. Morley Nelson recognized the longstanding problem with raptor electrocution from power lines and the associated power outages and even resulting wildfires. In cooperation with Idaho Power, and later with other utilities, he helped develop guards and redesigned power transmission lines to reduce raptor electrocution. This technology has since spread throughout the world.

Apologies were received from:

Mohammed al Bowardi, Majid al Mansouri, Pierre Basset, Hermann Döttlinger, Atadurdy Eyeberdiyew, Thijs Fleskens, Matt Gage, Frank Skaarup Hansen, Tage Jessen, Lorenzo Machin, Dieter Schramm, Igor Tavcar, Adrian Williams

2005 was another busy year for the IAF.

My report will be pretty short as I don't want to bother you with a duplication of the reports presented by the VP and chairmen of the WG. I would like to benefit of this opportunity to thank both vice-presidents for the superb job they are undertaking and especially Frank who is finishing his second term as VP for the Americas.

Hermann Döttlinger and Lorenzo Machin Acosta expressed the wish to leave the Advisory Committee. All our thanks go to Hermann and Lorenzo for their invaluable advices. I would like to welcome a new AC member, Alexander Prinz from Germany .

On the European front, we had to deal with problems related to falconry in Slovenia (where I sent some letters to Ministries), UK (wildtake policy) and Spain (this issue will be handled by Frank Bond).

On the Asian front, we had to deal problems in Middle East (Houbara bustard), Japan and Ukraine where falconry was questioned.

CIC:

As a consequence of the MOU we signed last year the IAF was admitted as member of the CIC. I remember that the CIC was admitted as member of the IAF during our AGM in Abu Dhabi and reciprocally the IAF was admitted as member of the CIC this spring.

I attended the CIC AGM (together with JM and FB) in Abu Dhabi in March and presented an obituary of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nayan at the symposium "Falconry: a world heritage".

Peter Sapara, chairman of the Falconry Commission resigned of the FC and JM Rodriguez Villa was elected as Chairman of the Falconry Commission, and Dr Reiterer (Austria), Igor Tavcar and I were elected as VP.

Houbara conference:

A conference on Houbara bustard was organised by the CIC in Madrid in January with the aim to develop a conservation project in China. I made a presentation on Arab falconry.

United Kingdom.

Wildtake policy:

The use of wild taken raptors in falconry is a politically sensitive issue. Undoubtedly it is close to the hearts of many falconers worldwide and a central aspect of traditional falconry. Most of us have for many years now had an ample supply of captive bred falcons but the fundamental aspect of our sport's relationship to the wild as experienced by fellow falconers in the US and countries in Europe, Asia and Africa has not been available to UK and may now seem unattainable.

Traditional falconry has much of world opinion on its side in the debate. The body of opinion in terms of international conservation policy is in support of the sustainable use of wildlife resources. In the US this has resulted in the restoration of the Peregrine to a wild harvest for falconers. In Ireland a limited wild take continues and even has difficulty fulfilling its quota. This issue was debated at the Scientific Committee which will report later.

UK Hawk Board:

I signed a MOU with the Hawk Board.



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey and Hawk Board of the United Kingdom

The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (hereafter "IAF") and the Hawk Board of the United Kingdom (hereinafter "HB") enter into this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") as of the last date signed by the parties hereto below.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, the IAF as a non-profit non-governmental organisation (hereafter "NGO") is active in preserving the art of falconry as part of man's cultural heritage within the wildlife management principle of sustainable use;

WHEREAS, the HB is a non-governmental organisation formed in the United Kingdom as an advisory body recognized as the representative body for all hawk keepers, including falconers, before the UK government for all matters related to falconry, raptor propagation, and national and international law.

WHEREAS, the HB is not a traditional falconry organisation which qualifies for regular membership status within the IAF.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The IAF and the HB agree to cooperate closely on all national and international levels to conserve birds of prey and to safeguard falconry, and also to promote falconry as an integral part of sustainable use and conservation of wildlife.
2. For this purpose, the HB applies as a supporting member organisation of the IAF, thus ensuring that the parties endeavour to engage active representative individual members within the HB organisation on a decision making level on all issues of mutual interest and within the framework of their respective governing bylaws and constitution.
3. The parties to this MOU will coordinate in particular their representation at the meetings of national and international conservation decision making bodies with the goal of harmonizing positions on issues and to pool resources and save costs, when possible.
4. The results achieved within the scope of the parties' joint activities, as intended above, will be acknowledged and credited principally to the parties hereto.
5. Notwithstanding this MOU, the parties hereto intend that each party maintain its own separate identity.
6. Because this MOU is based only on a continuing understanding of the mutual goals and objectives of the parties, this MOU may be terminated at anytime by either party upon delivery of written notice of such termination, by means of postal mail, facsimile or electronic mail.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FALCONRY AND CONSERVATION OF BIRDS OF PREY

HAWK BOARD OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Falconry Heritage Trust:

I attended the inaugural meeting of the FHT at the British Raptor Fair.

Jevgeni Shergalin, Gary Timbrell and Nick Fox will tell you more about the FHT later.

The objects of the FHT are:

- a) To preserve for the benefit of the public physical artefacts and objects that relate to the history and heritage of the sport of falconry, including its contributions to the scientific sub-disciplines of raptor biology, captive breeding, and conservation in a world-wide context.
- b) To provide for the benefit and education of the public, information on falconry, its history and ancillary functions in electronic form as a web-based archive.
- c) To provide access to physical artefacts at one or more suitable locations and to electronic information to the general public worldwide via the internet.
- d) To promote any other purposes connected with falconry and raptor conservation as are charitable according to the law of England and Wales.
- e) To promote the recognition of falconry as part of the world's intangible cultural heritage.

I can only encourage you to adhere to this trust.

UNESCO proposal: recognising Falconry as global intangible heritage

You all know that we are working towards an eventual presentation to UNESCO for declaring falconry a global intangible heritage.

This submission can only be made by states: currently the UAE will make the submission.

A New Working Group has been set up including members of IAF, CIC, the Archives of Falconry in the US and the newly formed Falconry Heritage Trust.

For the purposes of the working group the falconry world has been divided into regions whose falconers share a common history. In some cases a single country, in others several, depending on the amount of material we can logically expect. Each region has been given a coordinator who will assemble the contribution for his/her area. In some cases these are IAF National Delegates, in others well known academics and falconry scholars.

Preliminary contacts with UNESCO were held at the headquarters in Paris where JM and I met the officer in charge of the Cultural Heritage.

A symposium "Falconry a World heritage" was held in Abu Dhabi Sept 12th-15th.

Following some months of meetings and correspondence between WG members and UNESCO we have decided to make an approach to UNESCO on behalf of **Falconry** under UNESCO's **Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**.

This will entail a number of steps that will take some years to complete. 'We' means falconry groups in each country, aided and co-ordinated by the IAF.



1. We will ask the Government of certain State Parties (Signatory countries) to include Falconry when drawing up their Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage under Article 12 of this Convention.
2. We will ask UNESCO to include Falconry in its Representative List under Article 16 of this Convention.
3. We will recommend to UNESCO to use IAF as an Accredited Advisory NGO for the purposes of submissions on Falconry under Article 9 of this Convention.
4. We will encourage further countries where Falconry is practised to ratify the 2003 Convention.
5. The first Submission to UNESCO will be on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates.
6. We will make subsequent Submissions on behalf of certain other countries whose governments may be sympathetic to Falconry.
7. We will prepare similar material (but not submit it) on behalf of certain other countries whose governments probably will not support submissions.
8. These submissions, together with additional material, will be stored in an electronic internet archive provided by the Falconry Heritage Trust.
9. Each submission will require an Action Plan and these may lead on to further objectives yet to be properly defined.
10. Some countries that do not yet have proper falconry groups, such as China, will need significant resource Assistance from other participants under Part V of this Convention.



VP REPORT FRANK BOND

**Frank M. Bond, Vice President for the Americas
Final Report to the Council of Delegates
Opocno, Czech Republic
October 5, 2005**

For six years I have had the pleasure of representing the IAF as Vice President for the Americas. As this completes my second term, I make this my final vice presidential report to the Council of Delegates. I will be pleased to continue to serve the IAF as an AC member, and in the future, I am willing to provide Council leadership as the delegates may wish.

Through those years, I have become a colleague and friend of the officers, members of the Advisory Committee, and all delegates. The IAF is fortunate to have incredibly superior men in the official positions to lead it during this period of spectacular growth. Patrick Morel, our President, has spurred growth by his constant contact with falconers throughout the world. His leadership is always, thoughtful and even-handed, true always to our roots as practicing falconers. José Manuel Rodríguez-Villa, Vice President for Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania hold the most difficult vice presidential position where we have seen the most significant growth. As a businessman and lawyer, he uses his skills to deal particularly with the difficult issues before the European Union, and the often difficult conflicts among Member Organizations. Furthermore, with Patrick Morel and Robert Kenward, he has responded to the anti-falconry crises in central and eastern Europe.

Without Tony Crosswell, Executive Secretary, and Antonio Carapuco, Treasurer, the IAF really does not function. Tony Crosswell, a long term dear friend even before our activities in the IAF, keeps our records, keeps us organized and has the uncanny ability to sort through some thorny European and British issues. And, as Editor, he has done an incredible job in organizing and publishing our Annual IAF Newsletter. In a beautiful format, the Newsletter presents the IAF activities to the falconry world. Antonio Carapuco keeps the books, holds and disburses the funds, and is the officer who urges you to support the IAF with your financial subscriptions. However, beyond that, he provides prescient advice on so many of the policies supported by the IAF.

Two others, Gilles Nortier, Chairman of the Advisory Committee, and Gary Timbrell Public Relations Officer add immensely to the strength of the Association. Like Patrick Morel, Gilles has been active with the IAF for years. His value cannot be underestimated as he leads the AC with great diplomatic skills. The AC is diverse in views and nationalities, and he achieves consensus on even the most contentious issues. I had never thought of the Irish as the most adroit in presenting an image, and in our case, a public persona for falconry. Gary Timbrell disabuses us of my clearly incorrect image. He adds to the IAF far more importantly than most of our delegates might ever imagine. The IAF did not have a public relations "front man" until



Gary, and when Patrick Morel selected him, we became blessed with a great talent in providing our "spin" on falconry to the world.

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the generous support I have had from the NAFA team in the IAF. Tim Kimmel, former NAFA president at the time NAFA became a Member Organization, is a principal on the AC, and he leads several of the important committees. Juan Carlos Rojo, representing NAFA-Mexico, is the single delegate who has represented NAFA for all three countries at virtually all of the AGMs. In my opinion, the IAF needs to turn to Juan Carlos Rojo for additional leadership. Former NAFA president, Ralph Rogers, served importantly as the NAFA-US delegate, and represented the IAF at international meetings. Alberto Palleroni, the present NAFA-US delegate, provides not only strong falconry leadership but also incredible scientific expertise for the defense of the sport.

Finally, the AC is a superior group of advisors to the President. They provide useful information on policy, science, conservation and politics. To all of these men, I salute you and thank you for your leadership of the IAF and your personal support of and confidence in me. I count you all as dear friends.

The North American Falconers Association has nominated William Johnston to replace me as Vice President for the Americas. I support and recommend him as my replacement. I believe that he will provide you with the leadership the IAF will need for our region of the world.

This year, I have had somewhat limited contact with Latin America. Our NAFA-Mexico delegate, Juan Carlos Rojo, maintains the best contacts in Latin America. However, we may be able to increase our South American falconry contacts next year as there will be a conference on raptors of that region next June in Argentina. I have been invited to present the role of falconers in raptor conservation. With the potential attendance of other IAF officers, we may be able to develop significant contacts where falconry needs to be organized and recognized by national authorities.

During the year, I attended two conferences in Abu Dhabi. The first was the annual meeting of the CIC in March for whom José Manuel Rodríguez-Villa, is the president of their Falconry Commission. Our limited role in this meeting was to provide support to consider having UNESCO recognize falconry as an "intangible cultural heritage". The second Abu Dhabi conference, in September, was the presentation of various aspects of falconry by falconers, historians and governmental officials for the UNESCO proposal. I presented a status of North American falconry. I prepared a fairly comprehensive report on the history of falconry, current status, its presence in literature and art, and the technological advances. I used my Power Point presentation as the basis for my final report to the Council delegates in Opocno.

In the United States, we had two important advances during the past year. First, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued a proposed revision to our federal falconry regulations. NAFA members and others, including the IAF, responded to the FWS's call for comments on the proposal. There are several significant changes: (1) the present dual permit system will be eliminated in favor of a

single permit issued by the falconer's state; (2) more birds may be held by a falconer for falconry purposes; (3) more species of raptors may be captured from the wild; (4) the age to begin falconry is lowered from 14 to 12 years old; and (5) foreign falconers may come into the USA for a limited time and apply for a permit to practice falconry (if a person attempts to import a raptor, there is still a 30 day quarantine period).

In addition, we anticipate issuance of a set of draft revised propagation regulations. These will conform, as necessary, with the federal falconry regulations. We will need to make comments on these as well. Finally, FWS will prepare and issue an Environmental Assessment to support its modifications of both sets of regulations. With final adoption of the regulations, falconry and raptors propagation within the U.S. will be quite secure for the foreseeable future.

As I have reported in previous years, we were able to secure a harvest of eyass *Anatum* peregrines for falconry use. For the past two years, eyass peregrines have been taken in Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and Washington. In the future, we expect the remaining western states to permit a harvest. Despite these harvests, several "green" groups (local chapters of the National Audubon Society) filed a lawsuit in federal district court in Oregon to force the FWS to stop the harvest. On behalf of NAFA, I intervened in the lawsuit to support the FWS's harvest decision. I personally presented the case in May in Portland for NAFA members to be able to capture peregrines. In July, the federal judge issued his opinion siding with us on all points thus affirming the position of FWS. When the plaintiffs did not file notice of appeal on September 20, 2005, the case was over, so American falconers will now be able to harvest eyass peregrines without threat at all from anti-falconers.

As I reported to the Council, our remaining challenge is to be able to capture passage peregrines. We expect that the FWS will permit that harvest within 2 years. When we have that goal accomplished, falconers in the USA will have recovered every component of the full spectrum of historical falconry.

Despite this bright picture for the future, we still do have a problem with the West Nile virus. It does not seem to be as devastating this year as relatively few birds died, perhaps because of prior, non-lethal exposure. Dr. Patrick Redig, Director of the University of Minnesota Raptor Center is doing the essential research on a vaccine in cooperation with the researchers associated with the U.S. Center for Disease Control. Dr. Redig, a well-known falconer, is NAFA's consulting veterinarian.

Also, we continue to see reduced populations in certain grouse species, particularly to sage grouse, sharptail grouse, and the lesser prairie chicken. The North American Grouse Partnership, founded by falconers, is an essential group providing support for research and conservation programs. The significant leaders of the NAGP are Ralph Rogers and Jim Weaver, both former NAFA presidents, and Steve Sherrod, a highly recognized falconer, propagator and conservation biologist, and a member of the IAF Hybrids Working Group.



Finally, the 2006 IAF AGM will be held in Kearney, Nebraska in conjunction with NAFA's annual field meet from November 20 to 24. This is an outstanding location to see a diverse range of hawking at rabbits, ducks, pheasants, sharptailed grouse and other species. The NAFA meets include many enjoyable evening activities and presentations, including significant guest speakers. Additionally, there will be vendors of falconry equipment from all across the U.S., and even some foreign countries. And many of you will remember that we have large raffles for falconry items and equipment. We hope that all Council delegates can attend for what we expect to be a memorable experience.

As this is my final report, I thank all of you for your confidence, collegiality, hospitality in many countries, and most especially for your friendship. With clear vision and strong leadership, the IAF continues to be the most significant international voice for falconers throughout the world. United, we can support the vision of the founder, Jack Mavrogordato, to assure that falconry may be practiced in every part of the world when there are men and women who wish to go afield with hawk or falcon to have that taste of the wild in the same tradition as those generations of falconers who have preceded us.

AECCA complaint.

During the year the President and Executive Secretary had received an official letter of complaint from AECCA making allegations about the conduct of the President and Vice President Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa. By direction of the President and Chairman of the AC this matter was handled by Frank Bond who conducted an official inquiry. He reported his method and findings in full both to the AC and the delegates of the AGM. The full text of his findings are recorded in the minutes of the AC and Gilles Nortier, Chairman of the AC summarises events as follows:

Gilles Nortier first expressed thanks and congratulations to Frank Bond for his great work, time and neutral approach in the conduct of his investigation and presentation of his findings and recommendations.

He said that yesterday, the AC spent a long time considering this matter, following a set of procedural steps presented by Frank Bond. The AC listened and commented the full text of Frank Bond's investigation, and gave Mr Morel and Mr Rodriguez-Villa an opportunity to respond. The AC unanimously adopted the findings and recommendations of Frank Bond.

In summary, the AC found, like Frank, that Mr Morel and Mr Rodriguez-Villa did not have anything to do with some of the respective charges and with respect to the others, their conduct was appropriate and exercised in good faith, in view of their constitutional authority. The AC shared Frank Bond's conclusion that no action should be taken against either officer, and decided to submit the matter to the Council members at the AGM.

Gilles Nortier underlined that the AC was quite upset to waste valuable time dealing with such personal disputes, particularly when the people making the charges would not appear. He added that the Council is, by definition, an assembly of friends sharing the same passion, that IAF's task is to fight against our enemies to defend Falconry,

and that it is a shame to have to deal with such conflict between falconers.

Martin Jones said that Frank has handled this with discretion and this was a personal vendetta that should never have been brought this far. He said delegates of IAF should reject this conduct by AECCA out of hand.

Nick Fox said he endorses what Frank has said. In the way that the Spanish people conducted themselves in UAE two weeks ago the Emirate's were extremely disappointed at their behaviour. It has undermined falconry in the world community.

The secretary Tony Crosswell made the following statement.

We have been very fortunate in having the benefit of the professional expertise of Frank Bond in this matter and without his work IAF could have been in serious trouble. It would have been very costly for the Association to resolve this matter with legal fees. It is unfortunate that in today's world it is a political reality that IAF and its officers have been drawn into mischievous disputes such as this. We now have repeated examples of senior officers having been attacked in a similar fashion for political motives internal to member organisations. It causes great distress to our personnel but more importantly creates an enormous amount of work for the IAF that distracts us from our prime task of defending falconry. I would suggest that this meeting take steps to ensure that this can not happen in the future and propose

1. That the members ask the president to form a committee to deal with this and make recommendations.
Seconded Garry Timbrell - Unanimous vote in favour.
2. That the report of Frank Bond be accepted and the President be asked to advise AECCA of its conclusions.
Seconded Martin Jones - Unanimous vote in favour.

Antonio expressed his thanks to Garry Timbrell for how he handled this AECCA difficulty in UAE

Patrick Morel and Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa returned to the meeting.

Gilles Nortier said that this will be the last year of this chairmanship and yesterday the AC formed a Continuity Working Group. In related issues the AC is working on long term issues and we need to ensure the continuity of this work to manage the transition to the new presidency. We agreed yesterday that with the retirement of Frank Bond at this stage he is nominated for the Presidency of IAF by the AC.

The AC also recommends the continuity of the Vice Presidency for Jose Manuel Rodriguez-Villa and we will communicate with members in this coming year. Candidatures must be notified four months ahead of the election.

Tony advised that during the year members would be contacted for their input to the election process.



VP REPORT JOSE MANUEL RODRIGUEZ-VILLA

Report on the UNESCO Working group

Good morning to everybody,
It is my pleasure to address you in this 2005 Council of Delegates. First I want to thank our hostesses for all their kind arrangements. Thank you very much and congratulations. During last part of year 2004 and first 9 months of year 2005 many events, problems, opportunities, progress and fall backs have occurred in the falconry world.

Of most of them you have been reported by our Newsletter, our periodical internet news releases and today we'll receive further reports from National Delegates and Working Groups chairs.

That's why that I'll dedicate my presentation today to report you on the last progress status of a key project in our international strategy: The UNESCO project.

Fortunately, the non presence of Danish delegates today is due to a very different reason. They are in last stages of a long and difficult process for the full legalization of our sport in Denmark and on these dates they have a day out with their birds and the Ethical Committee formed by the Danish Government. Let's hope the final outcome is legalization of falconry in the country after the hard and excellent work carried out by our Danish colleagues.

Well then, this is to report you on the recent Symposium held in Abu Dhabi under the motto: Falconry a world heritage. The main target of the event was to identify the best approach to address our project to get UNESCO's recognition for falconry as intangible cultural heritage of humankind.

This three-day symposium was held with the gracious support of the government of the United Arab Emirates and was organised with the generous assistance of the Profalcon Breeding Project and the Emirates Falconers' Club. It ended with a workshop entitled: "The Way Forward" in which the IAF/CIC Working Group (WG) Committee and the WG members worked with UNESCO in finding the best way forward towards recognizing Falconry as part of the World's Cultural Heritage. The presentations were made by speakers who had been selected for specific reasons. In some cases they were delegates from IAF member countries and in others they were scientists or academics selected because they are known experts in a particular field. The speakers had worked very hard to adapt their knowledge for use in presentations that were relevant to the aims of this project – UNESCO recognitions of an intangible aspect of falconry as world heritage. One of the great successes of the event is that we now have a better idea of the wealth of knowledge and information we have available to us in physical collections, museums, galleries, archives and manpower and we have a good idea as to how we will use all this, the tangible or semi-tangible aspects of falconry's traditions to help us present and preserve the intangible. We know falconers have been

successful in conservation projects and through this have been very much involved in turning around a negative attitude in many non-falconers. The main aspect of falconry that is not assured for future generations is the intangible cultural aspect – that which is passed down through families, mentors and personal contact with other falconers, that which cannot be learned from a book.

After hearing the presentations made over the three days, those Working Group Members who were present, other contributors who had been invited and the UNESCO officials asked and answered questions and clarified some important points. Mr. Mgomezulu, Director of UNESCO's Cultural Heritage Division, explained the current convention (based in "Masterpieces" proclamations) is about to cease and will be replaced by a new one (based in "Safeguarding" concept). This has yet to be ratified by the required quorum of 30 member nations, although it is expected that this will be complete by March '06 and fully in place later in the summer. Current signatories are the ones appearing in the slide: (Countries marked with an asterisk * either have an active falconry interest or a historical one).

An important reason for the change to the convention was to remove the element of competition. In the old one it was a case of "This monument is better than that one" or "Our monument is better than yours". In the new convention it is a case of "This aspect of our life or culture is worth preserving in its own right". The following points were also clarified: Only those countries that have ratified can make a submission, but it is expected that eventually all UNESCO nations will ratify. An NGO cannot submit on behalf of a government. It can assist that government and even prepare the file, but the government must make the actual submission. Guidelines for submissions have not yet been finalised, therefore dialogue with UNESCO at this early stage could be very useful. The Working Group can help here and it may be possible to set precedents.

There is a case for looking upon this project as a two-stage operation:

First, encourage ratification of the new convention by persuading falconry countries to make up the final five/six required to complete the quorum. The first 30 are the ones that decide guidelines and form the committee for accepting or rejection submissions. Second make the falconry submission when all this is in place.

Role of UAE. The role of UAE is to take the first step – UAE has the strongest case to offer, it has the least opposition and it has the will to undertake the effort. If one country is successful it will be easier for others to follow.

The definition of what is "intangible heritage" could vary from country to country and may not be the only way UNESCO can help falconers. Remember that not only the convention on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage can assist the art of falconry, but also the establishment of world heritage sites, which can then have sustainable hunting for instance with falcons, saluki etc. as an element within them. IAF can help in identifying these things and during the period UAE is preparing its submission, IAF can be active in representations to UNESCO and can continue correspondence between falconry nations (both IAF and non-IAF) to keep up the impetus if so required.



Role of existing and proposed archive collections
The collection of information from countries proposing a future submission will be crucial. The Archives of Falconry and the two web-based virtual archives, the Falconry Heritage Trust and the Archives of Iberian Falconry, will use their “semi-tangible” and “tangible” evidences to present the “intangible” to the convention and to the world as part of a Planned Programme.

THE NEXT STEPS – AGREED AT THE WORKSHOP

First, to present this report to the Council of Delegates at IAF’s 2005 Annual General Meeting in the Czech Republic in order to receive an official decision concerning moves proposed in Abu Dhabi.

Further steps. To encourage the ratification of the new convention by falconry states so that the first thirty include a good number of falconry countries and also very relevant to make suggestions to the fledgeling convention for the guidelines for acceptance of submissions.

Another point will be to clarify what the actual wording of the first submission will be, for example “The culture of falconry” or the “Living traditions of falconry” or “The culture and community of falconry”. This will be very important if we are not to exclude other countries from benefiting from recognition.

OTHER STEPS TO CONTINUE AMASSING INFORMATION BY WG

To make contacts in non-IAF countries that will may benefit from the project. To work with the Archives of Falconry, the Falconry Heritage Trust and the Archives of Iberian Falconry. To look into other ways the tangible and the semi-tangible could be used to present falconry’s intangible heritage to the public as part of a Planned Programme
This way of working will also function with any other country as and when they decide to make a submission. Other nations not presenting submissions can still gain from this UNESCO project by being able to say to their authorities:

“Please do not ban or limit falconry in our country. It is recognised by IUCN, Bern Convention, CITES, European Law and has been even recognised by UNESCO”. This is maybe one of the key targets in this UNESCO whole project for IAF: to get a kind of recognition that would benefit falconers throughout the world. In practical terms it may mean further and good protection for falconry everywhere.

We, therefore, with the permit of the President would call for a vote of the Council of Delegates on the above described working plan with regard to the UNESCO project. Thanks a lot for your attention and support.

A Vote was taken to approve this working plan as outlined by JM

Vote: for -18, against - 0, abstentions - 0.

Membership Liaison

Tony Crosswell

Website

We have a new web hosting service and Ray Cooper is doing the new layout for the IAF website and reports:

‘I have just had too much work on to get it completed. I have a the new layout for you and others to comment on here: www.i-a-f.org/new/ I will complete the other pages as soon as I get the time (hopefully within a week or two). The latest newsletter will take a bit longer to get in place as it is quite a big undertaking but again I will do asap. The most important step is to get the basic site done first. Now would be a good time for any new amendments or new content you may have to be placed in the new pages. If you have any let me have asap. Also any new hawk/falcon pictures would be appreciated. I have some myself but I can never have enough. I will let you know when I put new pages together and when you are all happy with them I will replace the old site and re-circulate it on the internet.’

For your information the site receives between 2,500 to 3,000 visits per month at the moment. The new site should be up and running next month.

Newsletter

You have all seen the 2005 edition – it had a middle eastern theme in view of our AGM hosting but I have heard some comments that we might have overdone this and given the impression that we are now not so concerned with other parts of the world. I think this will have to be born in mind for the next edition and I will do my best to balance the picture.

This was our biggest edition yet and I would like to thank all those who contributed. Please do so again, your reports are much appreciated and photos convey so much to people who can not attend these meetings or your club activities.

Please remember that it is important that all copy is submitted to the editor only – confusion has arisen in the past with submissions to other officers then not being passed on.





REPORT OF THE PR OFFICER

Gary Timbrell

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 2004-5

The PRO for IAF is like all the other roles in IAF, an unsalaried position – Quod totum procedit ex amore – done for the love of it – amateur. I must apologise if something the PRO says or does occasionally appears as unprofessional, but everything I do is discussed with the board and the relevant experts on the AC before I do it. If any of you have ideas for improving on this way of working please voice them.

CONTACT POINT

Because of the website the PRO is often the first point of contact for non-falconers: "Are there falconers in my country?", "Where can I find someone to teach me about falconry?". These queries are passed to the national delegates.

Similarly most press requests would also be passed on, for example the BBC wanted comments on falconry in the UK and they were put in touch with matt Gage. Press requests for the Abu Dhabi Hunting Exhibition were passed to the EFC as was a request from Dubai Tourism.

The PRO is also the first point of contact for falconers and in the past 6 months I received enquires from seven UK citizens emigrating to other states and wanting to take hawks with them. None of them seemed aware that other countries might have different legislation to their own and were quite amazed when they had difficulties. AS an official of the Irish Hawking Club I was able to deal with the ones coming to Ireland, but requested approval from IAF Board for a letter to "International Falconer" from the PRO.

"Dear Sir, In the past 6 months we have received no less than 7 enquires from UK citizens who are emigrating to other states and want to take hawks with them. One to Bulgaria, two to Spain, one to France and three to Ireland. None of the seem aware that other countries might have different legislation to their own and are quite amazed when they have difficulties. Anyone wishing to practice falconry or keep birds of prey in a nation other than their own must be aware of several levels of legislation concerning birds of prey:

1. International
2. National
3. Regional - especially in countries like Spain where autonomous regions have very different laws from their neighbours

The three main areas affected are possession of birds of prey, cross border movements and hunting. These laws can be very different indeed from those of one's home country, for example forbidding falconers a particular species, compulsory Hunting Exams in the new country's language,

requiring registration of a hunting territory before licensing etc., etc. Anyone contemplating a permanent move to another state or even taking their hawks with them to a holiday cottage should make sure they know all the laws that will affect them. Anyone who turns up at a border expecting to be dealt with the same as they were at home is very foolish. They will also put into jeopardy the falconers in their new host nation. Most national falconry clubs now have websites with contact email addresses.

*Yours sincerely,
Gary Timbrell, PRO for IAF."*

This letter later appeared as a longer article in the BFC Journal.

The PRO can also be the first point of contact for new countries looking for assistance or even requesting membership. These applications are passed on directly to the Board.

LIAISON WITHIN IAF

There is a lot of cross-over between different jobs in IAF, the Pro has fallen into many unexpected areas such as translations of "English to English" – since we all speak different versions of English it has often been useful to rephrase documents into a version understandable by all of us. This has often led on to offering discreet and diplomatic suggestions for improvements and even helping with presentations

NEWS BULLETINS AND EMAIL GROUPS

Four News Bulletins (the email/website one) were produced since the last AGM – in October, January, March and June. Contacts with the falconry email groups were restricted to passing on the website link.

INFORMATION DISPLAYS

Copies of IAF information for display were sent to the BFC Spring Meeting and to a meeting in Slovakia where they were displayed by IAF Delegates Dr. Matthew gage (UK) and Dr. Bohumil Straka (Czech Rep.)

The same information and a more elaborate display went to the UK Falconers' Fair where it was attended over the weekend by President Patrick Morel, VP Jose Manuel Rodriguez Villa, Dr. Bohumil Straka and myself. In the absence of a higher IAF official I was obliged to make a speech on behalf of IAF at the opening ceremony on the second day. IAF enjoyed the hospitality and tent space of Nick Havemann-Mart of Honeybrook, one of the main sponsors and organisers of the event. At the Fair a Memo of Understanding with the UK Hawk Board was signed and IAF also played a large part in the inaugural meeting of the Falconry Heritage Trust (both reported elsewhere).

IAF/CIC Working Group for UNESCO submissions

For the purposes of this Working Group the falconry world was divided into regions whose falconers share a common history. In some cases a single country, in others several, depending on the amount of material we can logically expect. Each region was given a coordinator to assemble the contribution for his/her area. In some cases these are IAF National Delegates, in others well known academics and falconry scholars. Many are founder members of the Falconry Heritage Trust. More complete information on the



aims of the WG appeared in the last issue of the newsletter but the following confusions need to be clarified:

- It consists IAF and non IAF people
- It includes many non-IAF scholars
- It includes CIC people
- It includes FHT people
- It includes anyone who wishes to work
- There is no power structure – people who have been invited or have volunteered as co-ordinators are responsible for collecting information

ABU DHABI SYMPOSIUM

A three-day symposium held with the support of the government of the United Arab Emirates and organised with the assistance of the Emirates Falconers' Club the Profalcon Breeding Project who invited the speakers.

It ended with a workshop entitled: "The Way Forward" in which the Working Group (WG) Committee and the WG members worked with UNESCO in finding the best way forward towards recognizing Falconry as part of the World's Cultural Heritage. A full report appears elsewhere.

AGM LIAISON

After all that the PR work towards this AGM has been very mundane. It has largely consisted of passing on delegates' queries to our hosts in the Czech Republic.

Gary Timbrell
Public Relations Officer
for International Association for Falconry
and Conservation of Birds of Prey
Kilnagnady, Upton, Co.Cork, Ireland.
Tel: 00 353 21 7330298 or 00 353 87 6650619
Email: iaf.informationbureau@dublin.com

- 13.00 Lunch and Photograph Session for Newsletter.
14.00 Reports of the chairmen of the Working Groups



CHAIRMEN OF THE WORKING GROUPS

WG HYBRIDS

Frank Bond we will be active next year with changes that are happening in Europe.

WG CIC - JM Rodriguez-Villa

CIC's Report to IAF's AC and AGM Opocno 2005-09-25

Last March we attended the CIC's General Assembly held in Abu Dhabi. As you know, CIC is the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation. President Patrick Morel and Vicepresident Frank Bond and me conformed the IAF's delegation in the event. Robert Kenward also attended on behalf of IUCN as sustainable use specialist.

The General Assembly appointed me as President of CIC's Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey Commission and therefore member of its Executive Committee following the previous discussions and agreements reached by IAF and CIC Managements. Patrick Morel, Igor Tavcar and Prof. Monika Reiterer, were elected as Falconry Commission Vice presidents.

Our main joint project is that of UNESCO, though we IAF/CIC have also acted concertedly in the Danish falconry case by sending letters to Danish Hunters' Association to support falconers initiative. That is the kind of joint action that we envisioned when we drafted our IAF/CIC Memorandum of Understanding.

The CIC's Falconry Commission is still extending some financial support to German's Tree Nesting Peregrine Project, and we'll be looking soon into other projects on falconry prey species like Grey partridges in Ireland or possibly North American Grouses, maybe in cooperation with other CIC's Commissions like the Small Game Commission.

Next Friday I'll attend the CIC's Council in Madrid and we'll further discuss the Falconry Commission Action Plan. CIC's 2006 General Assembly will take place in Cyprus early May.

Middle East Relations Working Group

Just to very briefly report on our Middle East Relations Working Group. Of course we continue to enhance our relations with our only Member in the area the Emirates Falconers Club.

Apparently there are some movements towards Falconers' getting organized in some other countries of the area including Qatar, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. Kuwait is the



most advanced in the process. The so called Kuwait's Falconers Club had a stand in last edition of Arab Hunting Exhibition in Abu Dhabi last September. It seems that they are going to be ready by next year. We made an initial contact there and we'll follow up these moves but I'm sure it will take some time.

**World Conservation Council (IUCN)
Working Group report for 2005
Robert Kenward**

Members of the IUCN Working Group in 2005 were Robert Kenward (chair), Frank Bond, Timothy Kimmel, Anthony Crosswell, Hermann Doettlinger, Matthew Gage and Majid al Mansouri, with Patrick Morel ex-officio.

The IUCN working group has this year contributed to advice for a student surveying contributions to wildlife populations through ownership of animals, for which IAF should thank several of you, and also Ramon Balbas. News also arrived of a satisfactory resolution to a discussion between FACE and IUCN about an anti-hunting organisation, to which IAF contributed a letter supporting the position of FACE. Both organisations were asked to confirm their acceptance of the formal position of IUCN (and CBD) on conservation through sustainable use.

We agreed for IAF to co-sponsor a resolution on volunteers proposed to the 3rd World Conservation Conference in Bangkok last November. The resolution was from IUCN's Sustainable Use Specialist Group, but because resolutions cannot strictly be proposed within IUCN, CIC, IAF and FACE kindly provided the necessary sponsorship. The resolution was important for anyone who volunteers for hands-on conservation, and hence potentially for falconers.

IAF's Working Group chair has been working increasingly for IUCN, giving 7 presentations during the year, including one at the Falconry Heritage conference in Abu Dhabi. Contributions for the World Conference in Bangkok took him there on an IUCN ticket, and enabled IAF's voting right to be exercised. Fortunately, there were no issues of negative concern for falconry. Our vote could be cast for sustainable use resolutions in support of CIC, FACE and other groups that appreciate the conservation efforts of falconers, including the resolution to protect vultures from secondary poisoning by veterinary drugs in cattle carcasses.

You will be glad to hear that the Indian government has now banned veterinary use of the drug concerned, Diclofenac. Perhaps more importantly, the main manufacturing company in India has switched to an alternative shown to be non-toxic. As Christian de Coune emphasised last year, this episode has a silver-lining for falconry, partly because it has been a chance for us to show our concern for other raptor groups, partly because falconry-based organisations like the Peregrine Fund have been practically involved in finding solutions and partly as a reminder that management work by falconers like Jemima Parry-Jones remains an important insurance for raptors.

The conservation world is gradually swinging back to welcoming hands-on people, after dominance for so long by a protection-based approach. This is an opportunity for falconers to show how they can be useful for conserva-

tion, and try to find ways in which recognition of the essential benefits of falconry secures falconry's future. A talk at CIC's AGM in Abu Dhabi on behalf of IUCN showed how wildlife users might position themselves under a rubric of 'no harm is not enough', to move official attitudes from 'how do we control these people', to 'we need more of such useful people'.

Your chairman apologises for not communicating more this year, but there has been much pressure to finish a book on the Northern Goshawk. Unlike previous monographs in this Poyser series (available from Buteo Books in North America), this one has a whole chapter on Falconry and Management, and suggestions for how austringers could help with innovative projects on goshawks.

Hermann Doettlinger leaves the working group this year. Many thanks are due for his help.

**Report of the Baltic and Scandinavian
States Working Group for 2005
Robert Kenward**

Members of the BASS Working Group in 2005 were Robert Kenward (chair), Jevgeni Shergalin, Tage Jessen, Frank Hansen, Darius Daugela and Magnus Wildt, plus Patrick Morel ex-officio.

The Baltic and Scandinavian states of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Norway remain a challenging area for falconry. The working group is in a consolidation phase after several set-backs that were outside IAF influence, included the banning of falconry in Estonia and a decision in Finland not to develop a project using falconry for control of gulls as pests. There is positive news too, in that falconers have gained increased recognition in Denmark and Lithuania. The chair would like to congratulate Tage Jessen, Frank Hansen and Darius Daugela on all the hard work that they and their helpers are doing.

The depth of misunderstanding of falconry in Fennoscandia (Norway, Sweden and Finland) means that we have a long hill to climb towards legalisation in those states. Appreciation of the benefits of falconry for conservation will not be admitted overnight. However, perhaps we can gradually apply an 'Australian model'. Australia banned falconry during the pesticide era and became highly protectionist in its attitude to conservation. However, its experiences with successful conservation through use of the salt-water crocodile, and through the benefits of robust responses to alien invasive species, are creating greater realism. Australia is now open to concepts such as 'pest-control falconry', 'research falconry' and even has a paper published recently on rehabilitation with falconry techniques. Perhaps a project on conservation through recreational falconry could eventually succeed, as pioneered through managing habitats for grouse in a national park in the UK.

What we do know is that nothing should be pushed without very carefully checking the water temperature first. The support of hunting organisations is essential. They can help sound out government authorities and their advisors. Please do not hesitate to ask the group or chair for advice, as we have a number of useful points of contact.



Sweden tabled a discussion on falconry at the Ornithology meeting of experts for the EU Birds Directive on 29 September 2005, seeking a questionnaire survey of falconry as practised under the Directive and with particular reference to legal procurement of wild raptors, and the flying of hybrids and non-native species. IAF was kindly permitted to present to the meeting on the benefits of falconry for conservation and will assist with any survey of the EU states that is conducted.

CITES Report **IAF AGM October 2005** **Tony Crosswell**

Following the meeting in UAE in May 2004 CITES has progressed from the conclusions of that meeting. At the meeting, delegates noted that BirdLife International, as the listing authority for birds on the IUCN Red List had found that the Saker falcon now qualifies for threatened status with the category Endangered, owing to the high rate of overall decline in the recent past.

As a result of the contacts made during the consultative meeting, attempts would be made to establish a European action plan for the conservation of *Falco cherrug*.

At the request of the delegates, the summary record of their discussions would be provided at the 51st meeting of the CITES Standing Committee.

In December 2004 there were questions asked in the UK parliament about trade in Saker falcons and it is clear that concern is rising for this species. In December 2004 the CITES Standing Committee requested permission to proceed in the formation of CITES FALCON ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE. They have since sought funding for this initiative and a host country.

The CITES Secretariat is also taking note of the work of the Animals Committee under the review of significant trade.

European Action Plan for the Saker Falcon

Christian de Coune, representing IAF, and János Tóth, representing the Hungarian Falconers Club attended a two day Workshop for the Conservation of the Saker in its European Range, held in Csakvar (Hungary) 11-13 February 2005 with the cooperation of the Hungarian Government and with funds from the Slovak Government, BirdLife and its Hungarian partner. Note: the Bern Convention had entrusted to BirdLife International the working out of an action plan for the conservation of the European population of the Saker Falcon. In all 34 specialists from 11 different countries attended the event.

Twenty-first meeting of the Animals Committee Geneva (Switzerland), 20 – 25 May 2005 - Review of significant trade in specimens of Appendix II species

The working group of the review of significant trade had two main tasks: to report on the progress of implementation of the Review of Significant Trade, particularly species already in the process (as per AC 21, Doc 10.1.1 (Rev 1)); and to select species for review after COP 13 (as per AC 21, Doc 10.2)

REPORT ON PROGRESS:

On Tuesday 21st May, WG2 of the Animals Committee reviewed the Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*). WG2 considered the situation of countries that had not replied and whose trade data were insufficient, and agreed on a list of countries and species to be included in the next stage of the RST process.

- request countries categorized as “of urgent concern” to impose a zero quota for *Falco cherrug* (Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan);
- request those of “possible concern” that have not replied, to provide trade statistics and details on captive breeding facilities; and
- exclude countries of “least concern” from the review.

The Secretariat cautioned about requesting information on breeding facilities in order to track the origin of falcons within the RST process, since this process does not deal with illegal trade. Europe and the United Arab Emirates stressed the need for the AC to have information on breeding facilities in order to conduct a well-informed review. The AC adopted these recommendations with a minor amendment, and decided to communicate concern on wild specimens being exported as captive bred to the CITES Falcons Enforcement Task Force.

Under the species based review the representative for Europe (Ms Rodics) advised that Slovakia be added to the listed range states for the saker falcon. The Chairman also accepted her offer to distribute the European Action Plan for this species in the working group.

CITES calendar

21 - 23 November: CITES Falcon Enforcement Task Force, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

WG BERN Convention – Christian de Coune

See later report

WG FACE – Christian de Coune

See later report

IAF Science Committee Report **2005 AGM, Opoczno - Tim Kimmel**

Members of the IAF Science Committee for 2005, as continued from the previous year, included Dr. Hermann Döttinger (Germany), Dr. Nick Fox (UK), Dr. Matthew Gage (UK), Dr. Robert Kenward (UK), Dr. Timothy Kimmel (USA, Committee Chair), Dr. Jevgeni Shergalin (Estonia), and Janusz Sielicki (Poland).

Activity of the Science Committee this year has been relatively low, due in part to the busy schedules of certain



Committee members as a result of engagement in other activities, changes in careers and residences, etc. However, two projects that have been addressed to some extent this year included (1) continued development of a "List of Falconer Contributions" and (2) attention to the sustainable-use issue of "Wild Take" of raptors for falconry.

The "List of Falconer Contributions" has been a project intended to document the positive contributions that many falconers have made towards scientific research, wildlife conservation and management, veterinary medicine, the arts, etc. The emphasis of these contributions has focused largely on wild and captive raptors and their prey. Currently, the "List of Falconers Contributions" document is more than 22 pages in length and features "short lists" of contributions of more than 70 falconers. The list remains a 'work in progress' and shall always be incomplete – partly because we have chosen to include only a small subset of representative contributions for many of the falconers represented, and because we have many more falconers and their contributions to add to the list. Admittedly, most of the falconers currently listed mostly are English-speaking and from North America. The Committee is determined to expand the compilation to make it more representative of falconers and their contributions from other geographic regions.

The issue of "Wild Take," as addressed by the Science Committee in 2005 also has been somewhat a continuation of earlier Committee discussions that related to development of a sustainable-use document. However, this issue in 2005 came to have a particular focus on the United Kingdom (UK) and European Region. Early in 2005, there came a request from a select few individuals in the UK to pressure for an allowable take of wild raptors for falconry. The IAF and its Science Committee became more involved at that point to ensure that any requests from the local authorities would be consistent with local and regional laws and the best interests of falconry. From early discussions at the Advisory Committee (AC) level, Christian de Coune reminded us all of a clause in the EU Bird Directive and Bern Convention that relates to wild take and represents a potential problem, even for those European states in which the wild take of raptors currently is permitted. Specifically, the clause states that the wild take of birds may be permitted "provided there is no other satisfactory solution" to preclude wild take. Of course, from the standpoint of the wild take of raptors for falconry, the captive breeding of raptors easily could be interpreted as a "satisfactory solution."

Due to an extended vacation of the Science Committee Chairman in late spring and early summer 2005 and professional/personal involvements of others on the Science Committee, progress on development of an IAF "Wild Take" sustainable-use document slowed. However, in the UK, the British Falconers Club (BFC) addressed the issue locally with development of a position paper which follows, as provided by Science Committee member, Dr. Matthew Gage:

BFC Wild Take Policy – June 2005

• *The Club recognises that traditional falconry techniques include the use of raptors harvested from the wild population.*

• *The Club supports conservation policy based on the sustainable use of wildlife resources, and supports organisations such as I.U.C.N.*

• *The Club has, since 1988, supported a voluntary cessation of license applications by falconers.*

• *The Club recognises that many raptor species have now recovered in the wild to levels where they show density dependence, (reduced breeding levels) and saturated nest site occupancy; these healthy populations have created problems for those whose interests/livelihoods are affected by predation from high densities of raptors.*

• *The BFC opposes any form of illegal removal or persecution of wild raptors.*

• *The Club recognises that development of captive breeding has generated direct and indirect conservation benefits for wild raptors and sustains falconers' bird requirements.*

• *However, some domestic stocks could require genetic supplementation from wild sources, and some species are less practical to breed in captivity.*

• *The Club, at this time, does not encourage members to seek licenses to take raptors from the wild in the UK; however, we believe that there are no conservation reasons why licenses for some species could not be issued.*

• *The Club will represent Members' views and engage with Hawk Board, IAF, JNCC, DEFRA, and raptor conservation organisations, with a view to exploring the possibility of a sustainable, tightly-regulated, and minimum-impact form of wild take. However, the Club will not engage in actions on wild take that could bring falconry into disrepute.*

• *Should such licenses become re-available, the Club will oppose commercial use of wild-taken birds, and will request fair means of allocation to falconers with appropriate experience.*

While the above BFC policy statement was neither an IAF document nor addressed the issue of "Wild Take" at a broader geographic level, it at least provided those in the UK with a temporary 'stop-gap' document to address the issue locally. Finally, the Science Committee fully intends to continue working on a more comprehensive document on sustainable-use of wild take with supporting scientific literature on the topic during the upcoming year. Furthermore, other Science Committee initiatives will continue to be pursued.

Respectfully submitted by,

*J. Timothy Kimmel, Ph.D.,
Science Committee Chair.*



Retirement of Frank Bond from office.



Frank Bond introduced his successor Bill Johnston. Who made a short introductory speech.

The President Patrick Morel then made a speech of appreciation for the work of Frank Bond as Vice President for the past 6 years and made a presentation of a Falcon bronze by Spanish sculptor and falconer Lucio Relaño. To add to Franks airline baggage allowance on the trip home it weighed about 14 kilos!!!



Attached is a copy of Bill's resume' which details his experience as a manager, falconer, and NAFA official. Please allow me to give you my opinion, both professional and personal, of Bill's worthiness of this prestigious position.

I've known Bill Johnston for over 20 years. We live less than 5 miles apart and share many of the same training and hunting fields. And before I proceed further, let me say that on occasion Bill and I have strongly disagreed, and are likely to do so again in the future. But having worked closely with Bill while I was president and he vice president of the Massachusetts Falconry & Hawk Trust; I know first hand that he is both reasonable and diligent.

I take very seriously my responsibilities as NAFA president. Like you, I love the sport and the birds we employ. It would be my constitutional duty as NAFA president to represent the will of the board in their selection of Bill as the NAFA recommended candidate, even if I personally felt he were not qualified. I would do this enthusiastically and without rancor. However, in this instance, I wholeheartedly concur with the NAFA Board of Directors.

I had hoped to be able to join you this year but commitments that must be completed prior to the NAFA field meet in Vernal prevent any additional travel on my part. Please consider Bill Johnston as the NAFA recommended candidate for IAF Vice President for the Americas.

Yours in the Sport,

Darryl A. Perkins
President, North American Falconer's Association

Vote for new Vice President for the Americas

Frank Bond proposed on behalf of NAFA, Bill Johnston and was seconded by Patrick Morel – vote 21 for 2 abstentions.

From Darryl A. Perkins

September 25, 2005
International Association for Falconry & Birds of Prey
Attn: Patrick Morel, President

Dear Patrick,
I trust that my letter finds you, your family, and your birds, all in good health. Here in the US, young birds have been started, old veterans have been taken up from the moult, and hope springs eternal once again as we move towards the tie that binds us all. Falconry!

On behalf of the NAFA Board of Directors, I wish to thank you for your guidance and leadership during your tenure as IAF President.

Patrick, it is with great pleasure that I, along with the NAFA Board of Directors, beg your consideration of current Northeast Director Bill Johnston as a candidate for IAF Vice President for the Americas. The NAFA Board has formalized their endorsement of Bill in a vote that concluded on September 19, 2005.





Attachment I

From:
WILLIAM F. JOHNSTON, JR.
8 OAK KNOLL LANE
UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01568
(508) 529-3213
john4ma@earthlink.net



I have been a NAFA member since 1970 and will have completed my second two-year term as Northeast Director in January 2006.

As a NAFA director I have worked to promote falconry as a legitimate, sustainable field sport and have supported reasonable state and federal regulations. I met with Connecticut State Regulators to secure their commitment to the promulgation and enactment of workable falconry laws. I also testified at an open hearing during the review period. Connecticut is the forty ninth and final U.S. State to legalize falconry. NAFA President, Darryl Perkins and I successfully prepared and presented a proposal to the Massachusetts Division of Fish & Wildlife Service seeking their endorsement of the new federal falconry regulations. I have also worked with several state falconry clubs to secure extended duck hunting seasons for falconers.

At the request of the NAFA President, I conducted research and produced a report to the board on falconer legal liability insurance coverage. I also assisted and advised several individual NAFA members and a director.

During my tenure as a NAFA director I have called upon and created alliances with numerous sports fishing and hunting groups. My message has been one of common challenges and goals, reasonable hunting regulations, habitat protection and available wild quarry. In all of my dealings, I have been an ombudsman for falconry, depicting it as a noble sport with a long rich history of respect for predator and prey. Finally, I have represented the views, the concerns and advocated for the constituents of NAFA's Northeast Directorate.

My greatest concern for falconry in the Americas is shrinking habitat and suitable hunting opportunities as well as public perception of our ancient sport. On a local level

I am an officer of the Friends of Upton State Forest an advocacy group of diverse users in support of open space, passive low impact recreation including hunting on public land. In this capacity I have had the opportunity to "network" with many others users along with state and local authorities.

I am past Vice President and President of the Massachusetts Falconry and Hawk Trust. I have had falconry articles published in NAFA's Hawk Chalk and Journal as well as American Falconry Magazine.

I am currently flying a tiercel gyr x peregrine and a female peregrine. I am retired and own a place in Arnold, Nebraska, about 80 miles from Kearney, where I actively pursue prairie chickens, ducks and the occasional pheasant.

In January 2003 I retired from Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. During my 29 years of employment, I served in a number of increasingly more important positions. At my retirement I was Eastern Division Manager for Liberty's Group Operations. The territory encompassed all of the Eastern United States from Florida to Canada and west to Ohio.

My primary responsibility was managing a diverse group of sales and service people in offices strategically located throughout the division. Our mission was to deliver value added service to our customers while maintaining acceptable profit margins and operational efficiency through sound expense and territory management. I reported directly to a senior vice president who in turn reported directly to our chief operating officer.

My position required a high degree of interpersonal skills, balancing the needs of our customers against those of my employer. My direct management of both sales and field service also required that I convince internal operating departments over whom I had no direct authority, such as claims, underwriting and actuarial of the merits of my argument.

I believe that these skills plus my many years as a practicing falconer position me well to assume the responsibilities of IAF Vice President Americas.

Patrick Morel announced the resignation of Lorenzo Machin and Hermann Dottlinger from the AC. He then introduced Alexander Prinz as new member of AC and also Frank Bond to the AC - both accepted and were supported unanimously by the membership.

Reports of the delegates

Notes:

Bulgaria

Turkmenistan – the president Patrick Morel gratefully accepted honorary membership of the Falconers Club of Turkmenistan.

Japan

Belgium

South Africa and Zimbabwe – Tony Crosswell recalled to the membership a recent message and call from Gary Stafford of Zimbabwe who wished everybody well and assured them of falconry still surviving in the country in difficult times.



Slovakia – requested help from JM for a letter to their government – they will send a draft.

Mexico

USA

Hungary

Netherlands

Italy

Ireland

France New laws after many years work include wildtake, hunting seasons, can hunt 12 months of the year for different species. Lack of game makes this all quite difficult.

Germany – opposing organisations follow ideologies – rational and scientific argument fails.

Croatia

Czech Republic

Lithuania - falconry is defined in the hunting rules but the club is only 8 members and they have opposition from Greens

Estonia – only 4 members who continue the struggle to keep falconry going.

Poland

Austria

UK

Miscellaneous

Nick Fox made a short report on the progress of establishing the Falconry Heritage Trust.

Presentation of the IAF's award by the President

For services to falconry the president made the award of the IAF button to:



Antonio Carapuco

Ray Cooper

A video tape was presented to Peter Sapara retiring chairman of the CIC Falconry Commission.

AGM 2006 and 2007 (place and date)

Patrick said - 2006 in USA at NAFA meet and 2007 in Austria at the invitation of the Austrian Hawking Club. We are assured of a warm welcome in late October. Patrick has also approached Adrian Lombard to organise the 2008 meeting in July in South Africa.

19.30 Social evening, Broumar Lake hosted by the Czech Falconers' Club

Close of business

Country	Organization	name
Austria	Oesterreichischer Falknerbund	Josef Hiebeler
Belgium	BFA	Patrick Morel
Belgium		Francoise Morel
Belgium	IAF AC	Christian de Coune
Belgium		Kathleen Donck
Belgium	BVVH	Gunter Daes
Belgium	Studiegroep Behoud Valkerij - CM	Luk Moyson
Belgium		Myrjam Buelens
Bulgaria	Bulgarian Association for Conservation of Birds of Prey - AM	Pavel Yakimov
Croatia	Croatian Falconry Center	Viktor Šegrt
Croatia		Dragutin Contrec
Czech	Czech Falconry Club	Dr. Bohumil Straka
Czech		Petr Zvolanek
Estonia	Zoolit - CM	Jevgeni Shergalin
France	IAF AC (ANFA)	Gilles Nortier
France		Marianna Nortier
Germany	Deutscher Falkenorden	Alexander Prinz
Germany	CIC (DFO)	Peter Sapara
Hungary	Hungarian Falconers Club	János Tóth
Hungary		Annamária Tóth
Ireland	Irish Hawking Club	Paul Fogarty
Ireland		Gary Timbrell
Ireland		Sinead Timbrell
Italy	FIF	Dr. Giovanni Goj
Italy		Anna Paolillo
Italy		Carlo Roncoroni
Japan	The Japan Falconiformes Center	Dr. Keiya Nakajima
Japan		Tomoya Nakajima
Japan	National Conference for Japanese Falconry	Yukio Asaoka
Japan		Yukihiro Fujita
Japan		Takashi Sasakawa
Lithuania	Lithuanian Falconry Club	Darius Daugela
Mexico	North American Falconers Association	Juan Carlos
Netherlands	Nederlands Valkeniersverbond Adriaan Mollen	Simon Smit



Netherlands	Valkerij Equipage Jacoba van Beieren	Harrie Wagenaar
Netherlands		Henri van de Broek
Netherlands		Ben van der Graaf
Netherlands		Lucienne Graaf
Poland	IAF AC (Gniazdo Sokolnikow and Polish Falconry Order)	Janusz Sielicki
Portugal	Portugal IAF AC	Antonio Carapuco
Portugal		Fernando Ferreira
Slovakia	Slovak Falconers Club	Anton Moravčík
Slovakia		Mrs. Moravčíková
Slovakia		Dr. Peter Blaško
Slovakia		Dr. Ján Greguš
Slovakia		Michal Pavel
Slovenia	Slovenska zveza za sokolarstvo in zaščito ptic ujed	Roman Savic
Slovenia		Clary Savic
South Africa	South African Falconry Association	Dr. Adrian Lombard
South Africa		Sylvia Lombard
Spain	IAF vicepresident	Jose Rodriguez-Villa
UK	IAF AC	Anthony Crosswell
UK		Dr. Robert Kenward
UK		Martin Jones
UK	Scottish Hawking Club	Andrew Knowles-Brown
UK		Alan Norman
UK	UK Hawk Board	Dr. Nicholas Fox
UK		Barbro Fox
USA	IAF vicepresident (NAFA)	Frank Bond
USA		Patricia Manigault
USA	NAFA	William Johnston
USA		Dr. Timothy Kimmel

MEMBER'S REPORTS

2005 IAF UK Annual Falconry Report Matt Gage (BFC - England)

Two overriding issues in UK falconry require report this year.

1. Falconry abused to allow hunting with hounds

Despite enormous investment, much debate, and various appeals, legislation to ban the hunting of mammals with hounds came into force this year in England. The vote by elected Members of Parliament went heavily against hunting. This ban has, and will, affect UK falconry because an allowance exists (paradoxically to protect falconry) for the flushing of mammals with dogs for pursuit by a trained hawk. Unfortunately, the law did not stipulate a limit on how many dogs can be used, and what 'flush' means exactly. The fox hunters have therefore used this loophole to continue fox hunting in the presence of a trained raptor. An increasing number of hunts (30+) are purchasing and using eagles, eagle owls and buteos (even Harris' hawks) so that they can continue hunting under the pretext of using the hounds to flush for the hawk. Naturally, most have no intention of releasing the hawk, and if they did this would create severe welfare implications since hunting hounds are not like pointers.

While UK falconers have joined and wholeheartedly supported the fox-hunters against the ban, and feel much sympathy for their desperation, the British Falconers' Club and Hawk Board completely oppose the use of trained raptors to allow fox hunting to continue. Apart from the obvious welfare implications, this is not falconry, and has an enormous risk of bringing falconry into severe disrepute. UK falconry generally has a positive public perception, but allying falconry as part of fox hunting (which has a much more negative public perception) will severely damage falconry's reputation. Obviously, this situation is attracting much media attention.

Representatives from the British Falconers' Club and the Hawk Board have met with fox hunters and the Countryside Alliance to request that this practice be stopped. Unfortunately, falconers have been given little sympathy and the practice will continue and probably increase. The fox hunters and Countryside Alliance are powerful groups in UK rural issues so we must be careful not to come into major conflict, we also have sympathy since their sport has been banned, but we also have the tradition of falconry and our own sport to protect. The analogy that falconry is a tiny lifeboat tied onto the Titanic is a good one. The use of falconry will not change the law or help the fox hunters other than perhaps delaying the complete ban, but falconry will surely suffer hugely by being dragged into all this. The fox hunting season is just starting and we wait to respond further in an attempt to protect UK falconry against this most dangerous of situations.

2. BFC wild-take debate and policy

Wild raptors, such as peregrines and sparrowhawks, are in very good ecological health in the UK, to the point where some influential groups (pigeon racers, game rearers) are





requesting control. This situation has prompted members of the BFC to request what is Council's stance on a wild harvest of hawks for falconry. The issue has received much debate from those both opposed to, and in favour of, a wild take; this debate has been extremely healthy. The BFC recognises that wild-take is part of traditional falconry, but that captive breeding could provide a more positive public image of falconry. The BFC is, in principle, in favour of wild take, but only if it does not bring falconry into disrepute. I attach the policy below which may serve as a useful template in general on wild take; now we debate what actually might be done and the IAF Science Committee hopes to formulate a general-principled policy on wild harvest from an objective ecological perspective.

BFC Wild Take Policy – June 2005

- The Club recognises that traditional falconry techniques include the use of raptors harvested from the wild population.
- The Club supports conservation policy based on the sustainable use of wildlife resources, and supports organisations such as I.U.C.N.
- The Club has, since 1988, supported a voluntary cessation of license applications by falconers.
- The Club recognises that many raptor species have now recovered in the wild to levels where they show density dependence, (reduced breeding levels) and saturated nest site occupancy; these healthy populations have created problems for those whose interests/livelihoods are affected by predation from high densities of raptors.
- The BFC opposes any form of illegal removal or persecution of wild raptors.
- The Club recognises that development of captive breeding has generated direct and indirect conservation benefits for wild raptors and sustains falconers' bird requirements.
- However, some domestic stocks could require genetic supplementation from wild sources, and some species are less practical to breed in captivity.
- The Club, at this time, does not encourage members to seek licences to take raptors from the wild in the UK; however, we believe that there are no conservation reasons why licences for some species could not be issued.
- The Club will represent Members' views and engage with Hawkboard, IAF, JNCC, DEFRA, and raptor conservation organisations, with a view to exploring the possibility of a sustainable, tightly-regulated, and minimum-impact form of wild take. However, the Club will not engage in actions on wild take that could bring falconry into disrepute.
- Should such licences become re-available, the Club will oppose commercial use of wild-taken birds, and will request fair means of allocation to falconers with appropriate experience.

Scottish Hawking Club

Crookedstane,
Elvanfoot
Biggar
Lanarkshire
ML12 6RL
Telephone (01864) 505245

UK report to IAF conference Opochno 2005 Andrew Knowles-Brown

In the UK over the past year a number of items relating to falconry have been discussed. This has been done mainly by the HB which is the falconry clubs of the UK's official representative. Matters discussed with our government and others have been for the whole of the UK and these have been:

- The review of our Wildlife & Countryside Act registration which has been ongoing for 5 years. Scotland is about to start its own review before the end of the year.
- The review for the taking of pest species in England & Wales. Scotland is also about to start its own review this year.
- A syllabus for the formal education for the keeping & husbandry of birds of prey throughout the UK.
- The Hunting of Wild Mammals act for England & Wales. Scotland already has its own Wild Mammals Act which was enacted 3 years ago.
- The Memorandum of Understanding between IAF and HB which was signed by both parties earlier this year and now makes HB a Supporting Member of IAF.
- The enactment of CITES Schedule 8 by the UK government which could prevent the keeping of some Annex A. Species by individuals.

The item creating most concern is the enactment of the Hunting of Wild Mammals Act in England & Wales. Due to HBs successful lobbying our government included an exemption for falconers using more than 2 dogs to flush hares within the bill. Unfortunately some foxhunts have





decided to obtain birds of prey to use in conjunction with a pack of up to 30 fox hounds, this is for the intent to flush fox's for the bird. Even though the hunts have informed HB that they will not lose a bird it is the fact that they are using falconry as a loophole to circumvent the law that is of concern.

A statement has been issued by the H.B, Masters of Fox Hounds Association and the Council of Hunting Association concerning this practice as it will bring falconry and fox hunting into disrepute. Even so, some hunts are continuing with this practice, only time will tell what effect it has from our government or the public in the UK.

The British Falconers Club has been debating the 'Wild Take' of Birds of prey from the UK. It has issued a 10 point policy statement on this matter.

Lastly the U.K. falconers would like to see the EU legislation enforce equally throughout Europe, we are continually being told by our government that EU laws are not being interpreted the same in all countries we would like to see IAF take a lead in making sure all falconers are treated equally throughout Europe.

Federazione Italiana Falconieri



San Fermo della Battaglia
Via Belvedere, 11 – (CO)
Tel. 031/212344 – Fax. 031/536246
www.federazioneitalianafalconieri.com
e-mail: paoli.ann@tiscali.it
Segreteria: 333/3439429

Lake of Como
30th September 2005
Italy

Good morning to all and thank you for concession of these minutes.

Now we'll present a brief description about falconry of Italian Federation of Falconers.

THE VALUES OF FALCONRY

Falconry is an ancient art which is still developing nowadays.

As you know, lots of people are interested in our activity and would like to begin this sort of hobby.

One thing, however, should be taken into consideration. Falconry is very often considered as a simple leisure activity or even as a sport activity. But falconry is much more than this! Our main concern is today how to spread a correct approach to falconry.

It is then important to ask a few questions:

First, what is actually falconry?

Falconry is the art to hunt with raptors. This is true but falconry is in reality a lifestyle that has been developing and transmitting its cultural values since about 2000 b.C.

This simple consideration leads to the second question:

What is the cultural heritage of Falconry?

We think Falconry is, like music, one of the best and most fascinating means of communication. You all know how difficult is to communicate through words our emotions

and our ideas as they really are. Words often create confusion and ambiguity. On the contrary, Falconry has always succeeded in clearly communicating its spirit to different cultures. Don't forget that at the time of the Crusades, one of the bloodiest historical periods, even Muslims and Christians used to hunt together with falcons.

Why is this possible?

The answer is very simple. Because every falcon's flight creates emotions and beauty. It represents life in its evolution. It begins, it develops and it ends. There is in every falcon's flight risk, fear, hope, joy and sadness exactly like in real life. What is more, falconry also deals with the meaning of life, its mystery. For these reasons falconry, I MEAN true falconry, is something that should always unite falconers around the world.

The importance of this role of falconry cannot be underestimated so if we want that its values do not get lost, we have to transmit this idea of falconry to those who may think that a hunting licence and a falcon are enough to be considered true falconers.

True falconers - if you allow me to make a comparison - like poets, have access to a beautiful world made of history, tradition, emotions and passion. They not only see the beauty of the mountains in the distance, as many people do, but they also try to live this experience.

We think that considering Falconry as a humanity heritage is essential for the history of Falconry. This was obvious in the past but not today!

The main task of the Italian Federation of Falconers is to transmit a correct idea of Falconry through the following five ways:

1. lessons at schools;
2. teaching techniques but also the history, the culture and philosophy of Falconry;
3. a correct information about Falconry in magazines and medias;
4. a politically and economically independent attitude;
5. exchange, cooperation with other official falconry's associations to allow a wider view of falconry;

We have been working hard and successfully in this direction and this year we have obtained two more associations, arriving at the total number of ten.

Other targets

Meetings

Meetings are important social events that allow falconers to confront, exchange ideas and establish human relationships. We consider Falconry as a social event as it was in the past in the Middle Age when it represented a common thing to exhibit at court.

The most important Italian meeting are undoubtedly in Melfi and Capranica. Another interesting meeting is in Vivaro, this one is not organized by FIF.

FIF organizes other monthly meetings during the hunting season.

The Magazine Falconeria

Essential in our activity is the magazine Falconeria in memory of Mrs Marialba Ciglia Arpa.

Falconeria is the only magazine about falconry in Italy. Our aim is to spread informations about the world of falconry taking into account the veterinary and well being aspect.



Well being

With it we intend to give information about the well being concern about falconry. This is meant, for example, to justify methods like the use of hood and jesses in critical cases.

We are now planning to contact institutions about this matter, too.

Different cultures and points of view

For us the existence of different ideas and identities is essential. We are not against new organizations in Italy but we think that there must be dialogue and the possibility to confront each other.

What we are against is, on the contrary, the fusion in a single group where the different identities will disappear.

In conclusion, our main concern, as I have already underlined, is to respect the tradition and to keep the values of Falconry intact. This does not mean lack of progress, we only want to avoid losing those values that are at the basis of Falconry.

We must always remember that:

“Quod totum procedit ex amore”

Dr. Giovanni Goj
Italian Falconers Federation delegate
for the International Association for Falconry.
Federazione Italiana Falconieri
giovanni.goj@tin.it
Italy

Exotic Birds of Prey and Future of Japanese Falconry

Keiya Nakajima, Ph.D.
The Japan Falconiformes Center (JFC)

Falconry in Japan used to be practiced by the ruling class in each epoch and the birds of prey for the falconry were supplied as tributes from various areas. Falconers in the old days were the keepers of the birds of prey owned by their lords and they were specialists at training the birds for hunting purposes. Falconers did not handle the birds of prey they were keeping as their own property but kept them in a status that their lord and any guest invited by the lord might freely use them for the falconry. For this purpose, Japanese falconers developed facilities, tools and methods best suited for keeping and training the birds of prey. We at JFC are regularly using the nurturing facilities that had been restored based on documents dating back to the Edo Period (1603-1868) and we realize that they feature an extremely convenient and rational structure for nurturing and training the birds of prey (Fig. 1).

In line with changes in the social structure, the keeping of native birds of prey as a personal hobby has ended, and falconers as specialists for keeping the birds of prey for their lords have also disappeared, but the technology of keeping and training the birds of prey not exclusively for personal usage is still preserved by some falconers. Handling the birds of prey not exclusively for one's personal use means not keeping them as pet, and this technique is



Fig.1 Restored mews

used to the conservation that the injured birds return to their natural habitat.

At the same time, the birds of prey are imported from overseas because it is no longer possible to privately own native birds of prey, and many birds of prey now kept by lovers of falconry are either exotic species or hybrids not found in the Japanese fauna. As this trend has recently become conspicuous, import or possession of birds of prey tends to be subject to limitations. In this report, we should like to focus on the exotic species and future of Japanese falconry.

Recent legal regulations concerning exotic birds of prey and falconry

Notification System for Importation of Animals

The Law Concerning the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and the Medical Care for Patients of Infectious Diseases was revised to aim at preventing the infectious diseases harmful to people in Japan by the imported animals, and the Notification System for Importation of Animals was implemented on September 1, 2005.

All birds of prey around the world are the objects in this notification system. Birds of unknown scientific names are included in the list and it is also applied to the artificially-produced hybrids. In the case of birds of prey, the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and the West Nile Fever are the object of quarantine, and an official certificate of exporting nations is required for import. An outline of this system is published by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare website (Appendix 1). Details of the system are also read in the following website.

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/English/topics/importanimal/dl.02.pdf>



Invasive Alien Species Act

For the Invasive Alien Species Act implemented as of June 1, 2005, exotic birds of prey are not designated yet as object animals. The outline of this law is published by Ministry of the Environment website (Appendix 2). But, in the view of the basic policy on the prevention of damages caused by specific alien species approved by the cabinet on October 15, 2004, it is likely that the exotic birds of prey may well become the object of regulation in the future. For the details of this law and the basic policy, please see the following website: <http://www.env.go.jp/en/topic/as/041108.pdf>

In the island nation Japan, unlike other countries, 30 or more species of Falconiformes are known to exist, and there are many native species peculiar to Japan including sub-species. (Appendix 3) The fact that such a wide variety of species can coexist is proof that a delicate balance is kept regarding their natural habitats and preys.

The number of imported raptors to Japan between 2002 and 2004 was disclosed in connection with the notification system mentioned above, and 8972 birds were imported from around the world in those three years. It is the number of birds that declared value at the time of import exceeded 200000 yen (about 1480 euro), not total number of imported raptors.

Animal protection organizations are concerned about the possible serious threat to be caused to the ecological system of native birds of prey if some of those imported birds invade to Japanese fauna through hybridization or invasion of the natural habitat. Although it is fairly unlikely that escaped birds would quickly become wild, hybridize with native species, or threaten the natural habitat, no optimistic view is allowed since there exists an increasing number of cases of exotic species observed during field research or failing to collect birds released by keepers. Following species were observed in the field.

So far, there is no report that these species affected on native species.

- Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)
- Besra Sparrow Hawk (*Accipiter virgatus*)
- American Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis atricapillus*)
- White Goshawk (*Accipiter gentiles albidus*)
- Bay-Winged Hawk (*Harris's Hawk*, *Parabuteo unicinctus*)
- Changeable Hawk Eagle (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*)
- American Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)
- Bat Falcon (*Falco rufigularis*)
- Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)
- Laggar Falcon (*Falco jugger*)
- Lanner Falcon (*Falco biarmicus*)
- Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*)
- Hybrid falcons

Law Concerning the Protection of Birds and Animals and the Rationalization of Hunting

A study group (Wild Birds/Animals Protection Control Study Group) comprising specialists has been holding sessions since 2002 to aim at collating basic themes and the required measures regarding the protection of wild birds and animals and the ideal form of hunting, and the report was presented in December 2004. Regarding falconry, the

report tells: "For the falconry that has recently been winning an increasing number of fans, it is desirable to grasp their reality and study the ideal way of such traditional hunting methods from viewpoints of the protection of birds and animals."

In the study session were also expressed negative views to falconry by quoting cases of mistakenly capturing birds not to be hunted, but this subject was left as a theme of study and was not made a clear object of banning. We at JFC welcome the fact that falconry is clearly set forth as a hunting method in the law, but there still exists a fear that it may be made an object of control due to a majority negative view on the grounds of unlawful hunting acts committed by some thoughtless people.

Future of Japanese Falconry

Despite the limitation imposed on keeping native birds of prey for the personal hobby, there is no law in Japan that bans falconry itself (i.e. there is no stipulation on falconry in any law). There also exists no regulation on the ability or experience of those keeping the birds of prey or breeding facilities. For this reason, anybody interested in the birds of prey may easily buy the birds from pet shops and freely enjoy in the hunting season. As information on the birds of prey can now be easily obtained via the Internet, the number of people owning birds of prey is recently soaring.

Under such circumstances, some people tend to misinterpret the "lack of stipulation in the law" as "anything is okay as long as it does not violate the law." Those handling the birds of prey should reflect on their own acts by realizing that laws created by men are not capable enough to handle the possible impact on the natural environment. Falconry is a form of hunting that uses part of the ecological system and one should always avoid causing negative effects to the fauna of a certain area through acts of falconry. Even if we insist on the legitimacy of falconry as tradition and culture, if some selfish people continue hunting by using exotic or hybrid birds of prey, the art of Japanese falconry may become an object of regulation in the future, but would never be an object of respect.

It is about time for the organizations positively practicing falconry by using exotic species and the pet shops selling such birds of prey to reflect on their own acts.

Some even dare to admit that falconry is no longer possible in Japan without using exotic species, but those who are succeeding the traditional technique of Japanese falconry of not handling the birds of prey as pets should be able to suitably apply that technique to the conservation of the birds. If we succeed in accumulating sound results by the techniques of Japanese falconry being positively applied to the conservation of the birds of prey in the nation, our government and animal protection groups would recognize the efficacy of the traditional technique of falconry.

Whether we give priority to playing with birds of prey by easily buying them or to treating birds by paying due consideration to the natural environment of our nation - the very survival of Japanese falconry relies on the way of thinking about the birds of prey and the falconry of those who are currently keeping or are going to keep the birds of prey in the future.



If the impact by exotic birds of prey on the native species is reported by quoting actual examples, it will no longer be treated merely as inaptitude on individual level, and it would surely be used as the reason to regulate the keeping of the birds of prey and falconry.

Zimbabwe Falconers' Club

Members of the ZFC are still reeling from the loss of Ron Hartley (left of picture, myself on the right). Yes, he had left Zimbabwe for South Africa, but his frequent visits back to Zimbabwe made it feel as though he had never left. However, time moves on and we find ourselves faced with an exciting future, with most of our members feet glued to this unpredictable African soil.



This year saw some 35 practicing falconers, which is on a par with the yearly average, since the inception of the club in the 70's. Our annual field meet was a great success, with an unprecedented turnout, it just seems to get better. Our school boy falconry clubs (Peterhouse and Falcon College) are doing well, with 16 boys attending our annual meet, most flying birds in good style. It's good to see these young men / falconers in action, really enjoying the sport and conducting it in a manor we are all proud of.

Neil Deacan (PhD) and Angus Middleton (Bsc) head up our research program, taking over from where Ron Hartley left off, both having gone through the Falcon College Falconry Club system, under the guidance of Ron.

The current economic climate is having an affect on our ability to fly birds on a daily basis. Perhaps we have been spoilt, space and time have been taken for granted in the past, we need only look at the 'first world' where many falconers only fly on weekends.

Our season has just come to an end, with a number of falconers putting their hunting birds into breeding chambers. This has proved successful in the past, with a number

of chicks being produced in the 'off' season, which completes the cycle for many of us, adding another dimension to falconry.

Our relationship with The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management is back on track. The department was recently left to fend for itself, with little funding coming from the fiscal coffers, all income now being generated from the issuing of permits and the like. The Zimbabwe Falconer's Club is seen as 'non-profit' organisation, lending itself to sustainable utilisation, which is looked upon favourably by the department, resulting in the ZFC being left out of the income generating schemes. It is still illegal to trade and import exotic raptors into Zimbabwe, and we want to keep it that way, perhaps we are a bunch of simple purists, whose only wish, is to hunt our pure bred birds, on natural quarry.

Falconry – a fine way of life

John Grobler
President, Zimbabwe Falconers' Club

Report from BRAZIL

From: "Jorge Lisboa" <lisboajorge@hotmail.com>
Date: October 20, 2005 5:12:37 PM EDT
To: john4ma@earthlink.net
Subject: Brazilian Falconers

Hello Bill Johnston

Congratulations for your election for vice - president to America for IAF. Now we have around 50 partners of ABFPAR - Brazilian Falconers Association and Preservation Birds of Prey, but actually in the Brazilian territory, they exist many other falconers. These other hawkers are not adopted ABFPAR because they don't agree with the Brazilian laws of environment. In Brazil it practices of sporting falconry as they happen in many other countries are not possible, being like this, a lot of people want to practice falconry how it happens in many other countries, with hunt season and everything plus, and this in Brazil is very complicated. In Brazil we only have a state that authorizes the hunt even so with firearms that it is the state of Rio Grande do Sul, this been now it has your hunt activities prohibited by the justice due to manifestations of groups anti hunts.

Now the falconry in Brazil is developed as an effective form for rehabilitation a bird of prey that is disabled or to control animals curses, mainly in airports, in agriculture areas and in similar places, but this depends on the authorization of each state, some states authorize practices, others not.

Now also a group of 7 more experienced falconers exists in Brazil, which the Management of ABFPAR in your majority is part that has been giving consultantship the environment institution in Brazil, IBAMA for the creation of the first law of falconry in Brazil.

We recognized that there is a cultural progress of the Brazilian people in the acceptance of the falconry, besides we propose the inclusion possibility of the already practices of falconry in the legislation existent of the hunt with firearms, where the idea was very well it accepts for the Directors.



This is the largest problem that Brazil faces, the culture of the Brazilian people in your great majority for not accepting the hunt activity, but demonstrating the ecological aspect of the falconry, with a handling that allows reproduction in captivity, control of curses, and other more activities is going winning the interest of great part of the Brazilian people.

The species that it has been flown actively in healthy Brazil:

Accipiter bicolor; Falco femoralis; Rupornis magnirostris; Parabuteo unicinctus; Falco sparverius; Falco peregrinus. The preys have been in your great majority birds, of small sparrows to herons. Some more versatile birds like Parabuteo capture also some rodents of small size.

Now we are in a very big movement to reproduce prey birds in captivity. The fact of possessing a bird reproduced in captivity it allows a together larger recognition the Brazilian laws, likewise as it allows a larger possibility to move with the bird to all the places, and to fly with more freedom. Now we have been reproducing in Brazil Falco femoralis for two years. In 2004 they were 7 birds, and in 2005, 13 birds. Parabuteo unicinctus was reproduced for the first time in 2005 by Dr. Leo Fukui, current President of ABFPAR, until the present moment they were 3 nestlings. Also some were reproduced Falco sparverius.

I am building a small place to reproduce prey birds, where I intend to reproduce Accipiter bicolor Accipiter erythronemius, Falco femoralis, Falco ruficularis, Accipiter poliogaster, Parabuteo unicinctus and Buteo brachiurus.

Please, send me others messages for:

accipiterbr@yahoo.com.br
www.abfpar.org

GERMANY - Alex Prinz

Current general situation in Germany:

- Nature conservation and animal protection organisations enjoy a very high acceptance and confidence in the public.
- Nature conservation and animal welfare enjoys very high significance in politics. Commercial and other human interests are second rate in most cases.
- Organisations that are opposed to falconry follow ideologies. It is almost impossible to convince them with rational and scientific arguments.

Current problems:

- Restrictions are applied by officials of public authorities that influence falconry in a negative way. Currently there is a discussion on a potential increase of the minimum aviary size. Officials try to impose an expertise that was made for zoos onto falconers.

Potential future problems:

- A new hunting and field sports law is strongly demanded by leading nature conservation and animal protection

organisations. These organisations support a total ban of falconry.

- A federalism committee is going to transfer power from the country to the counties. Falconry would have to be defended in each county separately and regional bans might occur.

New protection of species act passed on 25th February 2005:

- Keeping and breeding of hybrids is prohibited from February 2005 onwards
- Transition period of 10 years
- Peregrine and saker hybrids concerned
- Hacking of hybrids is prohibited from February 2005 onwards

LITHUANIA

Situation

At the present time, situation of falconry do not change. Falconry is legal and this hunting type determinate Lithuania Republic hunting rules. We have not problems with antifalconers yet.

Game

Composition of games, which could hunt falconers in Lithuania territory, are from more than 20 species. Magpies and jackdaws was forbidden hunt from this year.

Club

Lietuvos sakalininku klubas (Lithuanian falconers club) have 8 members. 3 falconers are active. They fly goshawks. We have not captive breeding yet.

Prezident of Lithuanian Falconers Club
Darius Daugela

Akmenes 37,
Viekšniai,
Mazeikiu raj.,
Lithuania
Ph.: +370 687 51970
Email: dadaugela@gmail.com

MEXICO 2005 - Juan Carlos Rojo

Our III National Field Meet took place last December 2005 in the state of Zacatecas, four days camping in a desert plenty of hares, rabbits, three ponds with ducks, quail, and small birds, more than 150 falconers and austringers from 12 states, 10 clubs and about 50 harris-hawks, 5 redtail-hawks, 10 peregrine falcons, 5 aplomado falcons, one goshawk and one sharpshinned-hawk, it was very nice because there was a lot of game.

The meeting was organized by Grupo Cetreros del Valle de México (GCVM) and Asociación Morelense de Cetrería (AMC) There are a lot of cactus (nopales) with thorns so the hunting is difficult and accidents occurs so often, sometimes in the battle, the birds and hares got thorned as well as falconers and dogs.



A hard wind from the north was hitting for two days, falcons couldn't make good flights, nevertheless harris-hawks was very successful in such situation so everybody was happy, they hunt many hares and rabbits and falcons a few ducks and quails. We had acquainted with new falconers and old falconers.

GCVM is leading falconry clubs as an association, has a good relationship with our wildlife department, we still are in the process to develop a legislation that match with our requirements for the practice of falconry in a sustainable way, we are doing the first steps, tendency is that every falconer has to get a register for every bird for falconry purpose, with his corresponding numbered ring and permission document, in order to be under the law, we are going in the right way but still there is a lot to be done.

In the other hand, good Mexican falconers along the country that doesn't attend the National Field Meet, are hunting with their harris-hawks, aplomados and peregrines successfully.

Mexican Breeders haven't a good breeding season last year and we wish them the best or this 2006 breeding season. We have five active breeders, of these breeders two are breeding falco peregrinus anatum and peale's-anatum, the other three are breeding harris-hawks. There are about 8 new projects that in any moment could have succeed.

In Mexico's City International Airport, a group of falconers from "Grupo Mexicano de Cetrería", are cleaning the skies, they have been doing the job for the last four years, this is the first airport with a bird control project in México.

Nafa-Mexico

Report from Hungary 2005. **- János Tóth**

In Hungary there is only one association founded for falconry. It gives us some advantages in the every days work. We can concentrate our power better and it is very important nowadays. The Hungarian Falconers Club founded at 1939. At present the club members are 157. Every year

we have some new members. Falconers have to make a state hunter-falconer exam and a nature conservation state exam too. This exam organized by the Nature Conservation Ministry and contents the consevation law. The hunter-falconer exam hold by the Agricultural Ministry according to the hunting law.

We can use goshawk, sparrowhawk, mousebusard, kestrel from the wild for falconry with permission. The peregrine, gyrfalcon, lanner falcon, golden eagle we get only from captive breeding. It is not allowed to use exotic birds of prey, saker falcon, imperial eagle and any kind of hybrids for falconry purpose. The two most popular birds are the goshawk and peregrine falcon. The hunting season starts with the duck hunting in the middle of august and finishes at the end of february with the end of the pheasant hunting season. Most of the falconers catch pheasants and hares, but some of them hunt on ducks, rabbits, partridges, magpies, crows, gees, foxes, deers.

There aren't commercial breeders, only so called family breeders, who have some pairs and they produce small number of young ones. The home breeding covers the 90 percent of the new bird demand of the club, some special birds we import every year from abroad. The club members keep about 400 different birds of prey for falconry and breeding. There are some falconers who keep invalid birds of prey and cure insured birds from the nature. Some of these invalid pairs have young ones regularly which are released back to the nature by permission.

The club have two General Meetings, one in March and an other in September. In the hunting season there are club huntings three times a month. These huntings are three days, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and the game paid by the club. These events are the main scene of club life. Every year the club holds International Falconer Meeting, which become a tradition, the celebration of falconry. We developed the meetig to a city event with some interesting programes, for example, the bagging we hold in the main square of Orosháza, we have bird shows, falconer exhibitions, march with coaches and horses. It is a very good advertising of falconry. With the join to the European Union the border crossing and the paper work became very simply, this can brings the development of the falconry tourism.





The club publishes some newsletters to inform the members and a year book regularly. We have a home page with general informations about the Hungarian falconry and for the news.

There are very active corresponding members in the forum site: www.magyarsolyaszegyesulet.hu
or
www.solyaszat.uw.hu

The Hungarian Falconers Club represents the hungarian falconry in the IAF and CIC too.

The Ministry of Agriculture Hunting Department accept falconry as a hunting method with all the specialities of it and this recognition reflects in the hunting regulations.

Our only problem is in the future too, that we have to defend of some official nature conservist unfair label as it happened at the work of the Slovenian Hunting Law one year ago.

Summary the 2005 was a succesfull year for the hungarian falconry in spite of that the bird flu reached the country.

Canadian Report - By Mark Williams

I am honored to have been asked to represent the Canadian falconry wing for NAFA and the IAF, however I do not presume to represent ALL Canadian falconers but this being said, I am in communication with many falconers across the country and am kept in touch with both the political and social climate of our sport. This is my first report as requested by Bill Johnston VP of Americas and I am pleased to report that falconry is alive and strong here in Canada.

I will begin with my first report briefly outlining the specific regulations pertaining to the sport in those provinces that currently permit the practice of the art, starting from east to west. Unlike the USA, falconry is not federally regulated but instead by the local governments within the 10 provinces and 3 territories that the country of Canada comprises of.

British Columbia

The only club currently in existence in British Columbia is the B.C. Falconry Association. It was established in 1955. There are approximately 30 active falconers in the province but considerably more "raptor keepers", the exact numbers of which are unknown. There are no possession limits



for birds and this province has no apprenticeship program. There are no extended falconry seasons and falconry seasons follow the same as gun hunter seasons that varies from region to region. The principle quarry are ducks, cotton tail rabbits, pheasants in some regions, California quail inland southern regions and of course the plethora of vermin such as starlings etc, flown at by the smaller raptors such as merlins, sharpshin and coopers hawks etc.

There are several bird abatement companies in existence and in particular on the more populated west coast and again further inland at orchards where falconry birds are used to assist in pest bird problems. The climate in B.C. varies from a very temperate climate with lots of rainfall on the west coast, to further eastern parts towards the Rocky mountains seeing heavy snow fall in the winter warm summers to almost dessert like conditions in the very southern central regions.

B.C. has wild harvest allowances for Gyrs, Merlins, Kestrels, Coopers hawks, Sharpshin hawks and Goshawks (in some regions). There are currently no restrictions regarding non indigenous species except for exotic eagles and owls which are not permitted but are being contested. They are also permitted hybrids and they are not required to follow any restrictions regarding imprinting and radio telemetry use when flown free. The B.C. Falconry Association is not currently affiliated with NAFA.

Alberta

The Alberta Falconry Association (AFA) was formed in 1965 and has undergone several evolvments to reach its current status. In 1981 the provincial government approved regulations permitting falconry and in 1982 AFA registered as a society. The 1980s saw a slow development of falconry in the province as up until 1987 wild take was not allowed and access to birds was difficult. In 1987 the Wildlife Act was amended to allow a limited harvest of raptors in Alberta.

The current membership stands at around 35 members of which approx 25 are practicing falconers. The standard of falconry is world class due in part to the abundant quarry and ease of access to it. AFA has previously hosted the Canadian National meet on two occasions. Alberta has the most generous extended falconry seasons of all the Canadian clubs etc, with upland game bird season opening August 15th and running through to March 31st. Migratory birds (ducks and Geese) are permitted to be hunted from early September through late December and takes advantage of the full 107 days as regulated by CITES. As with all provinces, game licenses are required in order to hunt both migratory and upland game birds. Alberta are allowed wild take for up to 2 birds of any indigenous species with exception to eagles and currently peregrines. They are also allowed hybrids thereof but they are the only province in Canada not permitted the use of exotics. All hybrids must be imprinted to humans and flown with radio telemetry.

AFA adopted a similar apprenticeship scheme as the USA with novices being permitted one bird of specific species (i.e. Red-tail, Kestrel or Swainsons hawk) and is expected to hunt and catch quarry with this bird for a minimum of 1 year. After this point the Novice will be allowed to move to apprentice and is then permitted up to two birds of any of the regulated 16 species. After completion of 2 year



apprenticeship program there is an exam to be written and passed after which the apprentice becomes a regular falconer. Master falconer level is more of an honorary title and they are elected by their peers and are required to have a minimum of 7 years falconry experience with both hawks and falcons. A specific requirement of accepting this title will be that they are required to supervise apprentices as and when they arise.

One very unique aspect about falconry in Alberta is that the provincial government regulates that anyone wishing to become a falconer is required to join AFA first. This is because AFA is charged with self regulating the sport within the regulations set in the Alberta Wildlife Act. Essentially the Alberta government wants to minimize their involvement in a subject they know little about. The arrangement works for both party's as while seemingly autocratic when viewed from the outside, it actually results in the best interests of the bird first followed by the highest chances of success and therefore enjoyment for the falconer, newcomer and experienced alike. As a result no "pet keeping" is permitted with raptors in Alberta and all birds are flown and hunted to a high degree of success and falconry standards.

One of the internal requirements the club has of its members is to provide yearly records of what birds they have in possession, what quarry was caught and how long they spend in the field on average on each day out. As a result this information collected over the past 20 years has presented a very unique account of raptor consumption, game taken and recreational value. Aside from being interesting reading, is a very useful tool in proving to authorities within and outside the province, the justification of legal falconry as a low impact to both raptors and quarry while providing high recreational activity.

There are two types of falconry permits in Alberta. Recreational falconer and Commercial falconry permit. A regular falconer in possession of a recreational permit is allowed to possess up to 4 birds and a commercial permit (only given to regular or master falconer class falconers) allows for unlimited number of birds.

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Falconry Association (SFA) is one of the, if not THE OLDEST organized falconry club in North America although like it's province it's membership is relatively small with about 13 practicing falconers. The standard of falconry in this province is as high as anywhere in the world and the longwing hawking in particular are amongst the best conditions you would find anywhere in the world. SFA will be celebrating it's 50th anniversary this fall combining it with hosting the Canadian National meet once again in Weyburn, in early October 2006. SFA is not affiliated with NAFA but several of its members are long standing NAFA members. There is also a second less know recently created smaller falconry club called "Central Game Hawking Association".

The regulations pertaining to falconry in this province are more related to the legitimacy of the sport rather than practicing of it. It is interesting to note that falconry there is mainly governed by policy which was never enacted by government. The policy is reviewed annually by way of a meeting between the two clubs and the wildlife officials. They do have an extended upland game bird hawking sea-

son that runs from August 15th through February 28th. (Sunday hunting is permitted out of gun season). Duck season takes advantage of the full 107 days as regulated by CITES. They are allowed wild take and are able to take all raptors, (including peregrines) but with exception to eagles. They are also permitted exotics and hybrids and are required to imprint them and fly with radio telemetry.

SFA does operate an apprenticeship scheme whereby the apprentice is allowed one bird and is expected to hunt and take wild quarry with it for 1 year. The most appropriate bird is determined between the apprentice and the supervisor. After completion of the apprenticeship the falconer becomes a regular falconer and has no restriction on quantity or species of birds permitted to use in their regulations. As in keeping with most other provinces, falconers are allowed to take up to two birds from the wild each year. Needless to say these birds cannot be sold or bartered etc but can be transferred between licensed falconers with their province.

Manitoba

Falconry was recently permitted in Manitoba and is currently only practiced by 2 individuals with a third person who is primarily breeding and rehabbing birds along with providing educational programs. Needless to say there is not an organized club as such at the moment and are not affiliated with NAFA. However all 3 falconers are members of NAFA.

Manitoba's extended falconry season runs from August 15th through February 28th. They do not currently have any apprenticeship scheme in place for new comers entering the sport. A recreational falconer is permitted up to two birds and a licensed breeder is unrestricted.

While Manitoba has wild take, it is not permitted to own indigenous species that are on the endangered species list (i.e. peregrines), even if they are captive bred. This ridiculous rule is currently being challenged and hopefully will be corrected. They are however allowed exotics and hybrids and no regulations are imposed as to how these should be raised or flown. No eagles are allowed.

Generally speaking the climate across the three Canadian prairies can reach temperatures below -40c in the winter usually accompanied with good snow fall and in the summer temperatures reaching the high +30c's. One of the many beauties of the Canadian Prairies are the distinct four seasons of winter, spring, summer and fall, again generally speaking accompanied with lots of clear sunny days throughout.

Nunavet

This is our newest territory and as of yet legalized falconry does not exist however there is at least one NAFA member living there who is working with his newly formed government to legalize the sport. This is being presented from a hereditary right standpoint. Wild take of gyr falcons is to be allowed at a cost of \$2000 per permit. What is yet unclear is this will be the cost of a falconry permit as and when it is allowed.

As for the climate, this territory is in the true north and there sees much colder and longer winters that are only



conductive to flying hardy birds such as gyrfalcons, goshawks and possibly prairie falcons, the latter of which are not indigenous. Peregrines would not cope with the cold and it is the authors opinion that below -15c most peregrines will refuse to fly.

Ontario

This province has and still is undergoing some major changes in it's regulations regarding falconry. The new Fish & Wildlife Conservation Act that came into force on January 1st 1999. There are two categories of bird that may be kept in captivity for falconry: Falconry Birds that are "native" to Ontario and "Non indigenous Falconry birds" that are otherwise referred to as exotics. There are no stipulations as to how hybrids or exotics are to be raised etc.

In order to be a falconer you are required to fall into one of three categorized falconer levels. This will allow the license holder to keep any of the 16 designated indigenous or 12 non indigenous falconry birds in captivity. These include eagles and owls. They are currently not permitted wild take. All captive bred birds are required to be banded and records are required to be kept according to the ministry guidelines. Each of the three levels of falconry licenses are required to be used in conjunction with a small game hunting license and those levels are as follows:

Apprentice Falconry License

An apprentice is required to spend a minimum of 30 hours instruction with an experienced falconer over a 15month period covering two Octobers. They are permitted to keep one bird in a suitable mews and required to provide proper equipment.

General Class Falconry License

A general class falconer is permitted to possess up to three birds and will qualify once they have kept a bird of prey for a minimum of two years in a five year period.

Commercial Falconry License

To breed falconry birds you must have a commercial falconry permit that allows unlimited birds in possession. To qualify you must have kept birds for the past five years and bred birds for at least two years within that period.

There is only one falconry club in the province called the Ontario Hawking Club and through the club they administer an apprenticeship program. There are numerous falconry schools throughout the province that offer falconry courses and birds for sale to those interested in continuing on in the sport. Ontario has an extended falconry season that starts Sept 1st through March 31st. It is estimated that there are currently approximately 100 raptor keepers in the province of which 65 belong to the Ontario Falconry Club and the OHC is affiliated to NAFA.

The climate in Ontario varies to cold, white winters, higher precipitation than the prairies and warm sometimes humid summers but not the extremes we see in the prairie provinces..

Quebec

The Association Quebecoise des Fauconniers et Autorsiers (AQFA) comprises of approximately 15-20 falconers and they are affiliated with NAFA. There are two types of per-

mits in Quebec; Apprentice falconer and Regular Falconer with the apprentice being able to keep one raptor and the regular falconer has no limit restrictions. The current irony of this regulation is that this permit does not currently allow to hunt with their raptor but purely as a license to keep. They are allowed to keep all buteo hawks, falcons, accipiters etc, and any exotics / hybrids thereof. There are currently no regulations pertaining the raising and management of exotics or hybrids except that they must wear radio telemetry.

There is no apprenticeship scheme in Quebec. The current regulations for qualifying to become a falconer are a little vague. You do not need any experience to obtain a bird under the "apprentice permit" but in order to renew it one must prove that they have had at least 15 hours attendance on a falconry course or were trained by a regular falconer for that minimum time. Once you exceed 30 hours instruction you are able to apply for a regular falconers permit.

The Association Quebecoise des Fauconniers et Autorsiers (AQFA) is currently working with their provincial government to obtain hunting regulations for their birds and expect some breakthrough by fall of 2006. They are not currently permitted wild take of indigenous raptors and will pursue other priorities such as hunting seasons before tackling this. Currently in order to hunt with their birds several Quebec falconers make periodic trips over into Ontario to hawk. The climate of Quebec is similar to Ontario.

Eastern Canada

There is word that one or two individual falconers reside on the east coast of the country but as of yet I have been able to trace them. I do know that falconry is not regulated or recognized as a legal field sport in those provinces to date. I am confident however, that should the desire and need for it that arise, that NAFA and the IAF will be there for them.

This concludes my report and my sincere thanks to all my fellow falconry friends for their continued assistance in improving the lines of communication across this huge country of ours and towards the betterment of our sport. The future of falconry in Canada is promising with wide open expanses of land, abundant quarry and generally speaking, ease of access to it, makes it a great place to practice the art.

Mark Williams - IAF Canadian Representative

The Danish Animal Ethics Council - Hunting with birds of prey.

February the 10.th. 2005 The Danish Animal Ethics Council received "Report regarding hunting with birds of prey in Denmark" from The Danish Forest- & Nature Agency. A Working Group on Falconry pointed by The Danish Wildlife Management Council has produced this report.

The Working Group on Falconry was appointed after an application from The Danish Hawking Club, who asked for an evaluation of a proposal about permitting hunting with birds of prey in a trial periode of 3 years. The report evaluates the proposal from The Danish Hawking Club from



different professional angles. Simultaneously, the Working Group on Falconry points out, that questions about animal ethics may arise during the evaluation of hunting with birds of prey in Denmark. The Working Group on Falconry has not considered these issues and recommends that the report is brought before The Danish Animal Ethics Council instead. The Danish Animal Ethics Council is asked to reflect on keeping birds of prey in captivity, transportation of birds of prey and the implications of hunting for both the prey and the trained bird of prey.

On this basis The Danish Animal Ethics Council sees its task as specifically to evaluate the proposal to permit hunting with birds of prey in a trial period of 3 years on the conditions suggested by The Danish Hawking Club. Some of the members of The Danish Animal Ethics Council are concerned about the principle of keeping birds of prey in captivity, and some are opposed to the idea of hunting as a sport and are therefore also opposed to hunting with birds of prey. However, in this context the Council does not find that the task is to consider whether it is acceptable to keep birds of prey in captivity, neither whether hunting is acceptable seen from an animal ethics angle.

Instead the Council chooses to compare hunting with birds of prey to hunting with firearms and to compare use of birds of prey for hunting to the situation when birds of prey are kept without being used for hunting in Denmark. The question is if in this comparison there are doubts from an animal ethics point of view, which goes further than doubts already existing about hunting with firearms and keeping birds of prey in captivity. Again, it is important to stress that the Council as a whole can not be credited with a positive attitude to hunting and a positive attitude to keeping birds of prey in captivity.

The Danish Animal Ethics Council has discussed the matter about hunting with birds of prey in 3 meetings during March-December 2005. The members of the Council has furthermore been on two excursions – one in May 2005 concerning keeping, breeding and training the birds of prey by visiting the chairman of The Danish Hawking Club, Frank Skaarup Hansen, and another in October 2005 concerning transportation of and hunting with birds of prey on Femarn.

As a whole The Danish Animal Ethics Council has got the impression that the falconers the Council has met are very careful about their birds and show great experience and knowledge about the birds used for hunting. However, the members of the Council are very well aware that they have probably been presented to some of the best falconers in Denmark. The Council is aware that some falconers in Denmark currently or in the past have not met the same standards. The Council has been informed that in these cases the birds have been “withdrawn” from the falconer concerned, which the Council sees as a positive indication of a wish to keep a kind of self discipline amongst the falconers.

Compared to hunting with firearms The Danish Animal Ethics Council sees several apparent advantages by hunting with birds of prey. First of all the conditions of the hunt are to a greater extent set by nature; and with more focus on every single prey and with a lower number of prey than what is typically seen when hunting with firearms, among other things because a bird of prey is not used for hunting repeatedly on the same day. Secondly the prey has a better

chance to escape a bird of prey than a shot from a firearm and probably the captured prey are more often those animals which, compared to the population, are weakened by illness or age. Adding to this, there are probably fewer problems with lightly wounded prey when hunting with birds of prey than when hunting with firearms as a bird of prey only attacks a single prey at the time while a shot may injure more animals than the one aimed at. Finally, the captured prey is usually killed relatively quickly by either the bird of prey or the hunter.

Seeing hunting with birds of prey from an animal welfare and other animal ethics points of view, The Danish Animal Ethics Council thus finds that, in principle, hunting with birds of prey does not raise particular animal ethics problems compared to hunting with firearms. In addition it seems to be a welfare enrichment for the birds to be used for hunting. Furthermore, legalising hunting with birds of prey in Denmark will have the welfare benefit that there will be less need for transportation of the birds for longer distances to e.g. Germany to get the opportunity to hunt with the birds.

The Danish Animal Ethics Council does, however, find that the possible legalisation of hunting with birds of prey does raise concerns over some aspects, and that necessary steps must be taken to ensure that keeping and hunting with birds is done as responsibly as possible. The Council considers the points below in particular:

Education of falconers:

The Danish Animal Ethics Council finds it decisive that people who hunt with birds of prey have sufficient knowledge. The Council is aware that in connection to a possible legalisation of hunting with birds in Denmark, The Danish Hawking Club suggests to require that falconers have both an ordinary hunting licence and a specific falconers' hunting licence, which can be acquired following certain preconditions, including 2 years apprenticeship and passing an exam. The Danish Animal Ethics Council supports this requirement.

Keeping birds of prey in captivity:

In principle, the keeping birds of prey can be done in an acceptable way if the animals are kept under the right conditions - as is the case for the keeping of any other species in captivity. Today there are no legal requirements specifically protecting the welfare of birds of prey kept in captivity. Besides the general animal welfare act there are, however, some guidelines from The Danish Forest- & Nature Agency about minimum sizes of aviaries. The Danish Animal Ethics Council finds that a possible legalisation of hunting with birds of prey must be accompanied by legal demands concerning keeping of the birds. The Council presumes that optimal conditions for the birds will also be in the interest of the falconers themselves, as good conditions will support the performance of the hunting bird. Indeed, in the instruction book for falconers' examination The Danish Hawking Club lists guidelines for size and arrangements of aviaries and outdoor space.

Transportation:

In other animal species research has shown that stress associated with transport may be detrimental.. However, it is not clear to which degree the strain can be reduced by



habituation to transportation. The Danish Animal Ethics Council finds that in any case it must be ensured that inconvenience for the birds is reduced as far as possible during transportation.

Training:

The birds of prey must be trained both in relation to sitting on the block, wearing the hood and to the hunt itself. The Danish Animal Ethics Council acknowledges that it is necessary to train the birds in these skills to reduce the strain on them when used later on. The Danish Hawking Club gives guidelines for this training in the instruction book for falconers' exam and the Council emphasizes that it's very important to ensure that the training is done in an appropriate and responsible way.

Birds of prey species:

Use of foreign bird species may result in fauna pollution if the birds escape. Therefore, The Danish Animal Ethics Council finds the use of birds of prey already belonging to the Danish bird fauna an advantage.

Supplement to the population in captivity:

Egg collection from birds of prey nests in Denmark is currently forbidden without special permission. Keeping Danish birds of prey as part of a private household is regulated by the executive order on keeping birds in captivity (Ex. order no. 216 of 21.03.1994). Finally, import of birds of prey and eggs from birds of prey is regulated by the Washington Convention (CITES), which in Denmark is administered by The Danish Forest- & Nature Agency. Members of The Danish Animal Ethics Council have considered if a permission to go hunting with birds of prey could cause an increase in demand for birds and a risk of uncontrolled collection of eggs or illegal import. In the Council's opinion keeping birds of prey in captivity must be self supplying. Only in special cases and with permission from The Danish Forest- & Nature Agency could the stock of birds be supplemented by collection of eggs or import. The Danish Animal Ethics Council believes that the existing legislation in this field is sufficient. However, the Council emphasizes that a suitable control of this legislation must guarantee that a possible licence to hunt with birds of prey does not result in increased pressure on relevant birds of prey populations at home and abroad.

Determination of the origin of the birds of prey:

Today The Danish Forest- & Nature Agency permits the possession of indigenous species of birds of prey if it can be documented that the birds are at least second generation bred in captivity. Possession demands a permit from The Danish Forest- & Nature Agency and in order to obtain this permit the identity of the birds of prey must be determined by blood sampling and a microchip. The Working Group on Falconry under The Danish Wildlife Management Council suggests an intensified administration of this practice in order to avoid uncontrolled export of birds of prey younger than one year of age. The Danish Animal Ethics Council supports all actions taken in order to ascertain clarity when identity, origin, and ownership are to be determined. It is suggested that all expenses are to be covered by the owners/ keepers instead of a fee which is the current practice.

Control and inspection:

According to the report from The Working Group on Falconry under The Danish Wildlife Management Council falconers do not always report breeding as demanded by the regulations. It is already in the powers of The Danish Forest- & Nature Agency to take action against such neglect. The Working Group on Falconry suggests an increased administration of the regulations. This is supported by The Danish Animal Ethics Council. Furthermore, the report points out that the inspection done by The Danish Forest- & Nature Agency has not detected causes of concern and therefore it has been considered to limit the inspections. However, The Danish Animal Ethics Council suggests that inspections are continued if falconry is legalised.

As mentioned previously it appears from the report of The Working Group on Falconry under The Danish Wildlife Management Council that The Danish Hawking Club suggests an initial three year test period during which dispensation from the existing prohibition is granted a limited number of falconers and hawks. It is difficult to predict how legalisation of falconry will influence the trends, e.g.. in relation to the number of birds of prey in captivity and the seriousness in the keeping of birds of prey and the practice of falconry. However, considering the above mentioned actions the Council finds it reasonable to have a three year test period. Furthermore, The Council finds that the proposal from The Danish Hawking Club and the contents of its instruction book for falconers' exam reflect a profound and necessary sense of responsibility which can be used to benefit the welfare of existing birds of prey kept in captivity.

Yours Sincerely,

Stine B. Christiansen
DVM, MSc
Scientific secretary

*Translation: The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF).
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of The Danish Animal Ethics Council*





BERN CONVENTION 25th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

28th November – 1st December 2005

**Council of Europe
Strasbourg
Christian de Coune**

This year we were two of us, Robert Kenward (on his own expenses) who joined on the second day and myself.

This meeting provides good opportunities for having informal conversations with high ranking officials of the ministries of the environment of the member-countries and with observer-NGOs. Such conversations are one of the assets of such conferences.

It is definitely a must for the IAF to be represented at that meeting.

The Wolf in Switzerland

Switzerland proposed to pass the Wolf from Appendix II to Appendix III.. The result would be that it will be possible to allow it to be hunted. The Wolf is stable or increasing over most of Europe. The problem is the socio-political acceptance of the Wolf rather than an environmental issue. Switzerland does not want to grant permanent derogations. Downlisting would be detrimental to the conservation of the species where it is under some threat or has newly colonised. The Wolf remains on Appendix II.

Biennial reports

Contracting Parties must report every two years on the derogations they have granted.

Falconry has long since been added to the reasons for which derogations may be granted, although it is not quoted in the Convention.

This is a good confirmation that wild raptors may be used for falconry.

Several countries reported on Sparrowhawks, Goshawks or Golden Eagles having been taken from the wild for falconry.

This did not give rise to any negative reaction.

As an introductory remark to its report, Hungary stated: « *Since falconry as a traditional hunting method had a significant role in the history of Hungary, it is allowed in order to prevent the loss of this tradition.* »

Among the « exceptions concerning falconry », Poland reports on 6 Peregrine Falcons being captured from the wild « *in the frame of the Peregrine Restitution Program* »,

which is the program of reintroduction. It is interesting to see a conservation programme and falconry being amalgamated.

Invasive alien species

The Committee calls for national strategies.

Eradication in Italy is recommended as being the only solution for avoiding the Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus caroliensis*) to expand from Italy to Switzerland. In the past, animal rightists opposed eradication in Italy.

EU funding will be granted for the eradication of the Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) and for the dissemination of the appropriate techniques.

Climatic changes and biological diversity

It is considered as a huge issue affecting everyone on the Planet. There is a need for a strategy before it is too late. Europe could provide a lead whereas USA has failed to do so.

The Convention on Migratory Species has adopted a recommendation at its most recent Conference in Nairobi (Robert Kenward was just back from it).

European Union is working on it and a communication will be done before the European Parliament.

The Standing Committee of the Bern Convention discussed and adopted a Recommendation on the subject.

Windfarms in Bulgaria

Bulgaria aims at producing 10 % electricity from wind energy. They have a first project of 12 wind turbines along the Black Sea on one of the two Europe's main bird migration routes, known as Via Pontica ; thousands of raptors follow it. The project has already been approved by the Bulgarian authorities. There is another project of 13 wind turbines. The Bern Convention sent an expert on the spot, who produced an environment impact assessment (EIA). BirdLife along with Bulgarian NGO strongly criticise those projects.

The Committee adopts after long discussions a Recommendation to the Bulgarian Government asking to take full account of the EIA and chose an alternative location.

European Charter on Hunting

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe made a recommendation to the Council of the Ministers to:

Elaborate a European Charter on Hunting containing common principals and good practices ;

Create a European network of hunters and ornithologists for monitoring migratory species ;

Harmonise the education of hunters resulting possibly in a European hunting license.

The Standing Committee of the Bern Convention welcomed this recommendation and decided to form a group of experts. The idea is to harmonise with other initiatives already existing at the European level. For instance, FACE (Federation of the Hunters' Associations of Europe) and BirdLife International have signed a charter on sustainable hunting ; IUCN's Sustainable Use Specialists Group is working out guidelines for sustainable hunting. One must avoid duplicating efforts. It is agreed that hunting and nature conservation have common interests. The wish is expressed to have a well balanced working group with delegates from the member countries and NGO's. This part-



nership is welcomed by the Committee. Robert Kenward made an intervention in the name of IAF, drawing the attention to the fact that the EU Commission and IUCN are already working on the same subject and recommending that account be taken of the work done in order to avoid duplication.

I proposed to the President of the Standing Committee to include the IAF in the group of experts to be formed, I stressed the fact that there are only two hunters' organisations participating in the meetings of the Standing Committee, FACE and IAF (since more than 20 years). She agreed to include the IAF among the NGO's in the experts' group. Robert Kenward will take part in the group in the name of IUCN. Delegates of 5 countries proposed to take part in the expert group.

Intervention of Robert Kenward

For opening discussion, on morning of Wednesday 30.11.05, on a Charter for Hunting

The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey welcomes the concept of creating a Charter for Hunting, as envisaged for shooting. As recognised in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), sustainable use of components of biodiversity can contribute to conservation, as recently elaborated in CBD's Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use. There is benefit if all those interested in wild species and habitats cooperate, while duplication would waste resources. It will be important for the Charter working group, especially at drafting stage, to work with several other initiatives. One is the pioneering initiative on Sustainable Hunting organised by the European Commission's DG Environment with Birdlife and FACE. Other relevant initiatives are from IUCN (The World Conservation Union), including 2 years of work on Principles and Guidelines for Hunting and a new EU-funded project on Governance and Ecosystem Management for Conservation of Biodiversity (GEM-CON-BIO). Liaison with these initiatives is strongly advisable.

Habitat and Bird Directives Derogation System (HABIDES)

Like the Contracting Parties of the Bern Convention, the Member-States of the EU must also report on the derogations they have granted under the Habitat Directive and the Bird Directive. The Bern Convention has long since adopted a model form for the reporting on the derogations granted, in which, incidentally, falconry is quoted as a reason for making exceptions. The EU commission has elaborated a computerised system that should come into force in 2006. A structure is being created in connection with this new reporting technique.

Other items

Various topics have been discussed, like:
Action Plan for the European Sturgeons and Danube Sturgeons ;
Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles ;
A navigable waterway in Ukraine ;
Project of a motorway through the Krsna Gorge in Bulgaria ;
Catching, killing or trading of protected birds in Cyprus.
Etc...

Corridor conversations

As always this meeting is a good opportunity for making personal contacts with officials from the member states or with representatives of NGO's.

Robert Kenward proved to be extremely active in this function, mainly advocating for falconry as a sustainable use of the wild resource and as an asset for the conservation of biological diversity.

I spoke with:

European Association for Traditional Hunting; we exchanged our addresses and showed mutual interest. I gave IAF's Newsletter to Dr Massimo Maracci, the delegate of the said association.

Sweden; falconry and keeping birds of prey are illegal. He is not aware of attempts that might be done for legalising our sport.

Denmark; Are not informed of any development in the possibility of falconry being legalised. I underlined the paradoxical character of the Danish situation where keeping of birds of prey is possible but using them for hunting is not ; in that, Denmark constitutes an exception. They wonder if falconry will be dealt with in the framework of the European Charter. I said hat falconry is no longer questioned and when one evokes hunting, it is understood that it includes falconry, like it is the case with article 7 of the Bird Directive that deals with hunting « including falconry ». I don't expect hat falconry would be questioned on hat occasion. We are not afraid of a debate, but I don't expect that anyone would raise the point.

Bulgaria; I had the opportunity of extensively addressing the possibility of having falconry legalised in Bulgaria with delegates of Bulgarian NGO's present at the meeting in connection with the issue of windfarms along he Black Sea.

Bulgaria; I had the opportunity of extensively addressing the possibility of having falconry legalised in Bulgaria with delegates of Bulgarian NGOs present at the meeting in connection with the issue of windfarms along he Black Sea.

Robert and myself held an informal meeting with the two representatives of Bulgarian bird protection organisation, plus a Bulgarian now working for UNEP who chaired but said nothing. Robert later spoke with him about how extremists make things difficult for balanced conservation and he was sympathetic.

The least one can say is hat they are strongly opposed to legalising falconry.

We heard statements about alleged nest robbing without strong data; about decline of Saker without population figures being put forward. Mafia was quoted as making profit from robbed raptors, to which we opposed that an illegal bird of prey is of zero value to falconers, as only perfectly legal bird would be acquired by them. They put forward large scale nest robbing that, according to them, would ensue from the legalisation of falconry, but they didn't explain convincingly why this would occur. We advocated in vain for the principle of sustainable use. We felt like we were 30 ago!

The campaign of support organised by IAF does not seem to be known to them. The issue appears to be much emotional, which doesn't make the dialog more serene.



IAF Newsletter

I distributed our Newsletter to delegates of the following countries or organisations:

President and Secretariat of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention FACE
Traditional Hunters Assn.

Bulgaria
Ukraine
Azerbaijan
Slovenia
Switzerland
Norway
Denmark
Rumani

It always produces a very favourable effect. It is definitely a most valuable PR asset!

Elections

Mrs Véronique Herrens Schmidt (France) is re-elected President of the Standing Committee and Dr Jon Gunnar Ottosson (Iceland), Vice-President.

Conclusion

As I did on the occasion of the 20 meetings of the Standing Committee I attended, I draw the conclusion that attending it is an excellent opportunity for:

- making the IAF known or recalling that it exists;
- showing that the IAF participates to the important events linked to nature conservation;
- establishing personal contacts with prominent personalities;
- dealing personally with difficult issues.
- giving a positive image of falconry.



THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Nairobi, November 20-15 December 2005 [IAF discussion points noted].

This meeting was attended by Robert Kenward at the invitation of IUCN Species Survival Commission, with funding from IUCN and IAF. IUCN-SSC required technical support on raptors and bustard, both of which were the subject of resolutions at the conference and on which IUCN currently lacks specialist groups. There was an invitation for a presentation on the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines (AAPG) on sustainable use, which were also the subject of a resolution.

The Convention on Migratory Species is the only global convention which focuses primarily on preserving animal species. CMS is administered by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Raptors are on Appendix II of this convention, which creates no great restrictions on use, and there are a number of legal instruments which specifically consider conservation through use (e.g. on the Houbara bustard). IAF does not yet have observer status to this convention, which has not previously specifically addressed raptor issues. **However, the secretariat would welcome an application from IAF for observer status.**

It was agreed with IUCN that IAF could be represented where its interests were congruent with IUCN. This is broadly the case for issues of sustainable use, although IUCN primarily advises on science-based conservation and avoids advocacy. The two issues of most immediate importance for IAF were the approval (1) of a draft Agreement on Asian Houbara Bustard and (2) of a Memorandum of Understanding on the conservation of migratory raptors in Africa and Eurasia (both document drafts and CMS text are available as pdf files from reke@ceh.ac.uk NB large files).

1. The Agreement considers only the Asian Houbara, which is migratory between northern breeding areas (mainly in China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russia) and wintering areas in the Indian subcontinent and Middle East. The sedentary African Houbara are excluded. The agreement has taken some 15 years to develop, mainly in the care of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) but recently urged forward



especially by United Arab Emirates. States with a strong interest in use by falconers were represented by Dr. Hany Tatwany (KSA) and Dr. Fred Launay (UAE).

The Agreement and associated Action Plan was the subject of a 90 minute plenary session, during which delegations from several states looked for changes in the Action Plan, of which some may be used. To help bring things to a close, IAF made the following intervention. "The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) has followed the development of this Agreement for a number of years. IAF appreciates the huge effort to bring together a diversity of States and viewpoints on conservation of Houbara Bustard, greatly welcomes this Agreement and urges signing of the current draft without further delay, noting that any changes still required can (according to Article IX) be added as amendments at meetings of parties to the agreement." This was used by the Chair to close the session. The Agreement will be signed by parties in Riyadh during the next two months. IAF would probably be permitted to sign as an observer if it so wishes.

2. The Memorandum of Understanding on the conservation of migratory raptors in Africa and Eurasia had been prepared by the UK Department of environment, food and rural affairs (Defra), and was the responsibility of Nick Williams (who helped IAF with the "Ellis resolution" in Budapest). It takes a very balanced approach to falconry, although (thanks to the Saker) falconry is listed as a potential threat. In Item 8 of the MOU, which is non-binding on signatories and is therefore less forceful than an Agreement (CMS develops MOUs, Agreements and Treaties), "signatories endeavour to:

- e) ensure that any utilisation of raptors (in particular taking for falconry and post-hunting release) is based on an assessment of the best available knowledge of their ecology and is sustainable for the species as well as for the ecological systems that support them;
- f) prohibit the deliberate release of non-native species into the African-Eurasian region and take all appropriate measures to prevent the unintentional release of such species



if this release would prejudice the conservation status of raptors."

Very possibly this MOU offers more opportunity for falconry than threat. In particular, in its 3 categories for action the only raptor in category 1 is the saker, with the gyrfalcon, golden eagle and lanner falcon in category 2. Peregrine is listed in category 3 and is listed globally by IUCN/Birdlife as "of least concern". **This must make peregrine a very strong contender for down-listing in CITES.**

The MOU could also be used by falconry-friendly states in the Middle East to initiate monitoring of saker populations by mark-retrap methods, in which payments for marking young in the breeding areas would motivate conservation of their steppe-land habitats that are so vulnerable to agricultural development. **However, the document also quotes an IUCN/Birdlife status of Endangered for saker, which is not unjustifiable in light of new data (Falco, August 2005) and should be challenged before it impacts CITES.**

There was a somewhat less satisfactory outcome for the Resolution on the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines. The original resolution invited Parties to use the AAPG to enhance sustainability of use. However, various animal protection groups wished to kill the resolution, because they consider the AAPG too supportive of use, especially for turtles and marine mammals. They were supported by Australia and New Zealand. A compromise recommended examination of the value of the AAPG by the Scientific Council. IUCN attempted to include a new phrase more weakly encouraging application of the principles, but this was withdrawn following (lengthy) discussion in the (UK-led) coordination committee of the EU (which orchestrates a large block vote) despite strong support for the IUCN amendment from Germany(!).

The participation in this UNEP-based CoP as a part of the IUCN delegation was very valuable, providing insights concerning organisation to handle difficult issues. I am very grateful for support and encouragement to Dr Holly Dublin, the skilled and dedicated chair of IUCN-SSC, and for good company and arranging accommodation to Kai Wollscheid of CIC.

Robert Kenward



53rd AGM of CIC

(International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation)

The 53rd AGM of CIC took place in Limassol, Cyprus, during 1-5 May 2006. The theme was Conservation of Migratory Birds: A Shared Responsibility. The meeting was preceded by a day of workshop on migratory birds, with an understandable emphasis on high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI).

In the formal opening session there were welcome messages from many partners of CIC, including the Minister and Permanent Secretary for the Interior, the Cyprus Hunting Foundation, the Minister for Health and Women from Austria (currently in the EU chair), Robert Hepworth of the Convention on Migratory Species, Stephen Nash of CITES and Gilbert de Turckheim of FACE. Finally, IUCN (The World Conservation Union), was represented with presentations from Tamas Marghescu of Regional Office for Europe and Robert Kenward from Sustainable Use Specialist Group.

CIC membership comprises national delegations and individuals. This year was their largest ever AGM, with 32 delegations and 191 individual members, and an especially large contingent from China. As usual, the meeting was conducted with exquisite tact by President Dieter Schramm, ably assisted by Director General Kai Wollscheid.

CIC is structured into Commissions and the following 2 days were devoted to consecutive meetings of each Commission. In the Commission for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, a report on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Process was read by Kai Wollscheid, followed by a presentation by Peter Sapara on the results of much funding that CIC has given to help falconers re-establish tree-nesting peregrines in eastern Europe (at least 8 stable pairs are now present). Liam McGarry then showed how falconers were helping to re-create partridge habitat from spent peatlands in Eire, with much recent help from government and local farmers. Marc Petroff explained how falconry has developed in Brazil since 2003, with a new initiative in zootherapy and a hope of greater official recognition. It was decided not to revise the name of the Commission to include raptor breeding and to hold a discussion on relationships between falconry and linked activities at the next AGM, which will be in Belgrade.

The conference provided opportunity for discussion with important members of IAF member clubs in Austria, Brazil, Eire and Germany. It was good to learn about new developments in each country and to be able to explain the neutral position of all international NGOs, such as IUCN, CIC and IAF to commercial activities that may benefit some of their members (e.g. through well-run commercial breeding and educational displays) but also occasionally motivate illegality. International NGOs take need to take special care to ensure mutual cooperation by avoiding association with activities that create hostility or lead to disrespect.

Robert Kenward

9 May 2006

RESTITUTION OF THE PEREGRINE FALCON *FALCO PEREGRINUS PEREGRINUS* IN POLAND

Poland was a centre for tree-nesting population of the Peregrine, which starts in the N-E Germany and covers lowlands of Belarus and central Russia. In this population Peregrines used nests of other birds, such as herons, ravens, eagles, bald-eagles, ospreys, etc. Thanks to that the Peregrine nesting areas were not limited to cliffs and mountains, like in the most of it's world-wide range.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Peregrine Falcon was a widespread species on the whole territory of Poland and neighbouring countries, however not numerous. It was met most often on very forested territory of Warmia and Mazury – country of thousand lakes (N-E Poland). Sudden decrease of the population has been noticed near 1950, due to DDT effect. Nests of the Peregrine Falcon on the territory of Poland were last seen in 1964.

The tree-nesting population of the Peregrine was practically extinct, there are only few cases of nests known since 1960's. Single nests in Poland were found in 1970, 1980 and 1990, but that breeding attempts were not repeated. The tree-nesting population was extinct in other countries as well.

The Peregrine recovery is thus much more difficult than in case of mountain or cliff-nesting populations. Many populations of the Peregrine in mountains were preserved, on the lower level, but still existed. Besides Polish attempts to recover tree-nesting population, there is also a programme in Germany, with firsts successes already. That gives us hope to achieve the final success on that part of our Programme. Both programmes – Polish and German – are based on the idea of "imprinting on the place of





birth”.

Polish falconers started in the late 70's tests of breeding in captivity of the Peregrine Falcon, and first real results have been reached in the middle of 80's. When at the beginning of the seventies, Polish falconry has been reborn, Peregrine Falcon has been already vanished from the territory of Poland, and that was the reason why all birds in Polish Peregrine recovery programme were from west European breeding centres. All birds represent nominative sub-species of the Peregrine Falcon, and its ancestor come from the German, Scotch and Scandinavian populations. We have got a great help from German colleagues, especially at that early stage of the Programme.

Reintroduction began in the year 1990 and it was held mostly on the forested areas, partially in the mountain and in the cities. From the early beginning the Programme for the Peregrine Falcon Reinstatement in Poland was accepted by Polish Ministry of Nature. The Programme is coordinated by a Council, where all bodies interested are represented, including Polish Hunting Association, Polish Falconers Club, Polish Falconers Order, The Society for the Wild Animals „Falcon” and other non-governmental and governmental organisation and institutions, including local nature protection authorities, ornithologists and 5 breeding centres. The Ministry of Nature issues licences for reintroduction on the basis of Programme requests. 1990-2005 there have been 258 Peregrine Falcons reintroduced (216 in forests), and there have been at least

68 nestlings in the natural hatches. From about mid 90's Peregrine Falcons can be seen more often in their natural environment.

In 1998 the first wild nest of the Peregrine Falcon was found in Warsaw. Since that time new nests were known, some nest were abandoned. Most of these were in cities, some in mountains. Unfortunately no one nest is known to be in forests. In the year 2005 we were aware of 10 breeding pairs, where most of them comes from our reintroduction or born wild in our nests. We know also about several birds reintroduced or born wild in Poland having their nests in Germany as well. We expect similar number of breeding pairs in the forests, however we were not able to locate them so far.

Very important part of the Peregrine Programme in Poland is monitoring of the new Peregrine population. The “Falcon” Society was created to look after that aspect. We ring all known young Peregrines – reintroduced and born wild. We use the same scheme of ringing for years, which allows us to know origin of almost all birds in wild pairs. The reintroduced birds are ringed with black observatory ring (with white letters and numbers), the wild hatched with blue black observatory ring (with white letters and numbers). All birds are ringed with coloured ornithological ring – green in forests, yellow in cities, red in mountains. If you ever happen to meet a Peregrine with rings – let us know that fact with colours and the numbers, if only you can read these from the observatory ring.

We do our best to check all the known sites where Peregrines were observed, including all known nesting areas. Sometimes birds abandon the nest, sometimes the eggs are not fertile or chicks were lost. In many cases we used fostering method of reintroduction, thus combining the monitoring and reintroduction.

Another aspect of our work is installation of artificial nests in the areas where we expect Peregrines to breed. We installed nests in forests, cities and mountains, in areas where they were reintroduced and observed. Most of the pairs we know are breeding in such nests. Additional aspect of our work is public opinion interest. All parties involved in the Programme do a lot of educational efforts.

On our internet page (www.peregrinus.pl) there is a web camera showing the wild nest in Wloclawek area. For the coming years our main aims will be to work on the tree-nesting population (mainly further reintroductions) and active monitoring of existing nests.



Sławomir Sielicki
Janusz Sielicki
The Society for the Wild Animals „Falcon”
e-mail: falco@peregrinus.pl
www.peregrinus.pl



JUST WORDS?

by Christian de Coune

Little words have either saved or strengthened the position of falconry.

You may be assured that practically none of those little words appeared in official or semi-official texts just by chance.

Falconry associations kept a watchful eye on draft legal or scientific texts in order either to avoid adverse "little words" to appear in them or to try and have positive "little words" included in them.

It is the merit of IAF's policy of presence i.e.

To be there where falconry is likely to be addressed.

Hereafter examples of such "little words" in:

International legal texts

International Convention for the Protection of Birds signed in Paris on 18th October 1950.

Article 7: "Exception to the provisions of this convention may be permitted ... in the interests of ... and **falconry** ... provided that all necessary precautions are taken to prevent abuses."

This is probably the oldest mention of falconry in an international legal text in the modern times.

It would be interesting to make some research to determine on whose initiative this "little word" has been included in this Convention.

Council Directive of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC)

The **Proposal** from the Commission of 1976 contained a set of reasons allowing Member States to derogate from the general protection of all birds. There were no such reasons that would have enabled Member States to allow the capture and the keeping of birds of prey for falconry. **This meant the death of falconry throughout the European Community!**

Anthony Jack gave the alarm, asking all of us to contact our national authorities. Belgium reacted and so did the IAF and maybe other countries.

The **first result** was the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities of 26 May 1977:

"The absence of the possibility of derogating in order to take birds of prey for falconry was noted. It was pointed out to the Commission that this was a legitimate and ancient sport, which, if properly controlled, harmed neither the birds of prey population nor the populations of birds pursued in the course of falconry. Some provisions should be made to allow the continuation of this on a controlled basis."



The **second result** was, in the Directive 79/409 itself: Article 7.4 "member States shall ensure that the practice of hunting, including falconry if practised...."

Article 9.1(c) to permit ... the capture, keeping or other judicious use of certain birds in small numbers."

In its Second Report on Birds Directive the Commission explains "judicious use" as follows: "This concept ... may include hunting using birds of prey in the context of falconry."

By those "little words", falconry was saved in the European Communities!

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and natural Habitats BERN Convention of 19 Sep. 1979

This convention does not contain the word falconry, but its provisions are very closely similar to those of the Bird Directive 79/409.

The **Standing Committee** of the Convention adopted a **"model form"** to be followed by the Contracting Parties for reporting on the derogations they have granted. It contains amongst others the list of the 5 reasons foreseen by the Convention for allowing derogations, but the Standing Committee added one reason that was not mentioned in the Convention:

vi. **falconry**.

The **Standing Committee** of the Bern Convention adopted on 5 December 1997 the Recommendation N° 57 on the Introduction of Organisms belonging to Non-Native Species into the Environment. This recommendation **contains lots of prohibitions to keep and to breed non native species**.

But the **IAF asked falconry to be "immunised"** from those several bans.

The preamble of the Recommendation states:

"Considering that this Recommendation does not apply to:

- or the use of birds in **falconry"**

The Standing Committee of the Bern Convention adopted in December 2003 a "European Strategy on Invasive Spe-



cies. It recommends "Appropriate Activities and Partners for Preventing Unintentional Introductions Work with the International Association for falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey...".

Benelux Convention on Hunting and Bird Protection of 10 June 1970

The Committee of the Ministers of the Benelux Economical Union adopted a Decision stating that:

"For the practice of **hunting** are also allowed in Belgium and the Netherlands:

- 1. **birds of prey.**

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora CITES

I'LL TELL YOU A SUCCESS STORY:

Fort Lauderdale (Florida) 1994, the CITES held its 9th Conference of the Parties.

Among the topics addressed, there was a large number of alleged infractions involving birds of prey.

Before the Conference, I made an enquiry about those alleged infractions and discovered that they all concerned falconers crossing the borders mostly between Austria or Germany and central European countries, like Poland or Czechoslovakia just for a week-end hunting party. In view of the impossibility of obtaining the re-export permit on the Sunday, falconers just crossed back with their hawks without the re-export permit.

I publicly explained that to the Conference, pointing out that falconers are law abiding citizens and recommending that CITES be applied with more celerity and flexibility.

I quoted the example of the European Firearms Pass for hunters and the existing passport for horses and said:

"Why not a passport for falconry?"

The reactions were quite positive.

Back home, I started drafting a text organising some sort of a passport for falconry birds. I unofficially submitted my text to the CITES Secretariat in Genève, to the European Commission in Brussels, etc. I found a country that was ready to submit my text, that was Switzerland.

The 10th Conference of the Parties of CITES of 1997 held in Harare (Zimbabwe) adopted a Resolution on Frequent Transborder Movements of Personally Owned Live Animals. The year before, the Standing Committee of CITES did amend the first text during a meeting attended by Frank Bond, Tony Crosswell and myself. The "falconry pass" was born!

In that Resolution one can read:

"Aware that live animals ... are often involved in frequent movements ... for a variety of legitimate purposes including ...falconry;"

Now the "falconry pass" is widely used in several countries of the Middle East, maybe in other countries and hopefully soon in the EU.

Regulation (EC) N°1774/2002 on Animal by-products not intended for human consumption

Article 23. "Member States may authorise ... the use of the animal by-products .. for the feeding of: ... (iii) reptiles and birds of prey other than zoo or circus animals."

International scientific bodies

International Council for Bird Preservation ICBP

Now called BirdLife International.

Recommendation N°20 of the World Conference on the Conservation of Birds of Prey, Vienna October 1-3, 1975

"Recommends that possession of live birds of prey, and their eggs, be prohibited save under licence to be issued by the appropriate governmental authority, for research, education, falconry and domestic breeding, that wilful disturbance of rare nesting birds of prey, including nature photography and bird-watching be prohibited save under licence to be issued by the appropriate governmental authority, for research, education, falconry, domestic breeding and bird-ringing,"

In 1975, the situation of the Peregrine Falcon was at its worst (possible extinction), several persons were advocating for the ban of falconry as a consequence.

Anthony Jack and Robert Kenward represented the IAF, they took part in the drafting committee for the recommendations to be directed to the Governments.

Their "little words" saved falconry from a proposed ban!

Raptor Research Foundation

In November 1985, more than 500 raptor biologists met in Sacramento, California for a Conference on Peregrine Falcon. IAF was represented by Robert Kenward and Christian de Coune.

The Conference adopted a Resolution of Falconers' Contribution: "...the conservation community owes **falconers** a debt which seldom has been recognised,..."

International Council for Bird Preservation ICBP

Now called BirdLife International.

At the 1987 meeting of the European Continental Section of the ICBP, in Visegrad (Hungary), ICBP recommends collaboration with bona fide falconry organisations. Anthony Jack represented the IAF.

World Working Group on Birds of Prey

The WWG organised an International Conference on Holarctic Birds of Prey at Badajos (Spain) in April 1994. The Report on the Conference states:

"A presentation by Christian de Coune raised active discussion on the use of wild raptors for falconry, ending finally in agreement that a small fraction of surplus wild birds from a well-established population of such species as the Goshawk could be taken ...".

The World Conservation Union IUCN

IAF was represented by R Kenward. The world's most important organisation in the field of nature conservation of which the IAF has been democratically elected a member adopted at its World Conservation Congress in Amman (Jordan) on 4-11 October 2000 a resolution on the conservation of the Saker Falcon in which one can read:

"REQUESTS that Saker range states and falconers work with CITES and other regulatory authorities....".



World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls

The WWG at its meeting of May 2003 in Budapest had to deal with a proposal for a resolution that was very unfriendly to falconry.

The IAF was represented.

IAF was quoted on equal footing with the greatest conservation organisations. Abstract:

"URGES the range states to work with BirdLife International, IUCN, the CITES Secretariat, the International Association for falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, the World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls"

CONCLUSION

These "little words" are testimonies of the acceptance of falconry by the authorities concerned, they should inspire those who are still hesitating about the attitude they should adopt towards our sport.

Christian de Coune.

AVIAN INFLUENZA (H5N1) AND FALCONRY

J. Timothy Kimmel

Introduction

Avian influenza (known also as "bird flu," "avian influenza A," "fowl pest," or "fowl plague")¹ has generated considerable concern recently as infection rates among birds, humans, and other animals with a highly pathogenic H5N1 subtype of avian influenza virus have increased. Not only have infection rates increased, but this subtype now has spread well beyond its site of origin in eastern Asia where it first appeared about ten years ago. Fears are the H5N1 virus might evolve to become a highly contagious human pathogen and lead to a pandemic similar to the one that killed 40 to 100 million people in 1918 - the infamous "Spanish flu pandemic"² (a pandemic is a global outbreak of a serious and highly contagious illness).

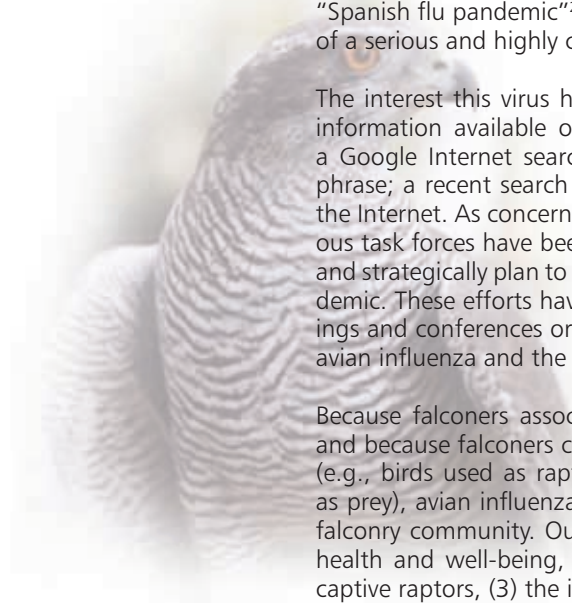
The interest this virus has generated, and the volume of information available online, is evident if one conducts a Google Internet search using "bird flu" as a keyword phrase; a recent search yielded over sixty million links on the Internet. As concern for the virus has heightened, various task forces have been established to address the virus and strategically plan to prevent (perhaps, confront) a pandemic. These efforts have dovetailed with a host of meetings and conferences organized fully or in part to address avian influenza and the H5N1 subtype (Appendix A).

Because falconers associate closely with trained raptors, and because falconers come into contact with other birds (e.g., birds used as raptor food and wild birds captured as prey), avian influenza should be taken seriously by the falconry community. Our concerns relate to: (1) our own health and well-being, (2) the health and well-being of captive raptors, (3) the impact avian influenza might have on game and other wildlife populations, and (4) additional restrictions that may further limit our freedom to practice falconry and trade raptors as authorities impose measures to curb spread of the virus.

This article represents an overview of the highly pathogenic H5N1 subtype of avian influenza. It is intended to help fill a gap in the knowledge of many falconers and to provide the international falconry community with some suggestions to safeguard individual falconers and their birds.

Avian Influenzas

There are three major types of influenza viruses – Types A, B and C – and humans can become infected with all three.³ Type C viruses usually produce only mild disease in humans have never caused a human epidemic or pandemic. Type B viruses only occur in humans, and while they may be more serious than Type C viruses (mild to serious illness and perhaps death) and can cause an epidemic, they have never caused a pandemic. Wild birds are the natural reservoir for most Type A viruses. Further, because all Type A viruses are





capable of infecting birds, they generally are called “avian influenza” viruses. Some avian influenza viruses also can infect mammals, including humans, and may result in mild to serious illness or death.^{1,3}

Type A viruses are very diverse in comparison to Type B, and especially Type C, viruses.³ Type A viruses are classified into subtypes depending upon the chemical makeup of antigenic glycoprotein molecules on their viral coats called hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N) antigens. Currently, 16 H types (1 through 16) and 9 N types (1 through 9) are known, resulting in 144 possible subtype combinations.^{1,2,4} Moreover, various genetic strains may be identified for any of these 144 possible subtypes, which further adds to the diversity of influenza viruses.³ Some Type A viral subtypes are associated with certain groups of birds more than others. For example, although waterfowl have been documented with most known subtype combinations, the H3 and H6 viruses are more common in waterfowl, whereas H9 and H13 are more common in shorebirds.¹ Also, as certain subtypes infect mammals, they may become associated with particular groups of mammalian hosts (e.g., H7N7 and H3N8 in horses and H3N8 in dogs). Several subtypes (H1N1, H1N2 and H3N2) circulate freely among humans and cause the ‘seasonal influenzas’ we all experience at some point in time.³ Thus, most humans have some level of immunity to certain strains of these subtypes. However, because mutations and genetic reassortment constantly lead to evolution of new strains, health professionals must keep up with development of new “flu vaccines” for strains most likely to cause human illness each year.

As related to disease-causing potential (pathogenicity), subtypes of avian influenza viruses differ and are classified generally as: (1) low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) viruses, and (2) high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) viruses. Most avian influenza viruses are LPAI; they result in few, if any, clinical signs of infection in birds, and generally do not seriously threaten human health. On the other hand, HPAI viruses produce serious illness and can

be deadly.^{4,5} Moreover, certain LPAI viruses can evolve (or, have evolved) into HPAI forms (e.g., H5 and certain H7 and H9 types) and cross the bird-mammal boundary, at which time they can pose a grave threat to humans (e.g., the virus of current concern, H5N1).^{3,4,5}

Presently, although H5N1 appears to be rather contagious among some birds, it has not (yet) evolved the ability to pass readily between birds and mammals and from mammal to mammal. However, given the highly pathogenic nature of H5N1 (55% mortality in humans),⁶ if this subtype should become highly contagious among humans, it could lead to a pandemic.

History of H5N1

According to the World Health Organization (WHO),⁷ the first reported isolation of highly pathogenic (HP) H5N1 was from a domestic goose in Guangdong Province, China in 1996. In 1997, small-scale outbreaks of HP H5N1 were reported in poultry at farms and in wet markets in Hong Kong, and during the same year, Hong Kong reported the first human infections and deaths. In mid-2003, the first of three major waves of outbreaks erupted in Asia. By January 2004, as part of that first wave, the virus expanded its range from China northeastward to the Korean Peninsula and southeastward into Indochina. In mid-2004, a second wave of the virus erupted; still, though, the virus remain largely confined to Asia. However, in late October 2004, HP H5N1 was detected in two eagles imported illegally from Thailand into Europe (Brussels), which documented the first known occurrence of the virus outside Asia. The third (current) wave of eruptions began in December 2004, and by April 2005, a large number of wild birds of several species were reported dying at Qinghai Lake in central China. During several weeks as many as 6,345 migratory bird deaths were attributed to the virus. By mid- to late-summer 2005, the virus had spread into Russia, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia. In October 2005, H5N1 was confirmed in poultry in Turkey, Romania, and Croatia, as well as for a parrot in the United Kingdom which died in quarantine. During the month of November 2005, at least 25 poultry outbreaks occurred in China, which resulted in the culling of about 20 million domestic birds. By the end of 2005, the virus had moved into the Ukraine, and a migratory flamingo was confirmed with H5N1 in Kuwait, marking the first known occurrence of the virus in the Gulf region. Prior to 2006, H5N1 had been identified in perhaps 22 countries, with the vast majority of these countries limited to Asia and the Pacific islands. During the first several months of 2006, though, the number of countries with confirmed H5N1 virtually tripled as the virus expanded its range into parts of Europe, the Middle East, and northern Africa (Appendix B). Perhaps with the exception of Europe, much of this expansion was related to movement of domestic birds and/or contaminated transport cages and other items. The movement of the virus in a westerly direction into Europe in winter 2006 initially was thought to be inconsistent with a more typical north-south movement of migratory birds. However, given (1) particularly cold winter weather in central Asia (that may have driven some wild infected birds westward into Europe)⁸ and (2) the fact the H5N1 strain found recently in Europe appears to be genetically identical to the strain in migratory birds from Qinghai Lake (M. Muller, *pers. comm.*), wild birds indeed may have been the source of the recent European influx. The most rapid spread of the virus into Europe occurred during the first three months of 2006 (especially February and March),





but appears to have slowed considerably through April and May. Moreover, the European occurrences have been rather isolated, mostly limited to swans, and has not yet escalated to outbreak levels that have been observed in other areas, especially in Asia.

To date, the virus has yet to be documented in any part of the Americas, Australia, or Antarctica. Many believe it is just a matter of time before H5N1 makes its way to most of these other regions. However, because strains of LPAI generally differ between wild birds of Eurasia and the New World, it could take quite some time for HPAI to reach North America via migratory birds, because there naturally may be little transfer between the super-continent.⁹ The arrival of H5N1 to the New World, if/when it does occur, more likely may be via movement of domestic birds.

Evolution and Pathology of HP H5N1

Typical of most HPAI viruses, H5N1 first arose as a LPAI virus and evolved to become highly pathogenic.^{4,5} The process by which it occurs is that one or more LPAI subtypes or strains comes to reside in wild bird populations for a period of time. Because these viruses are highly adaptable and genetically labile they can evolve rather quickly, and simultaneous infection in an individual bird with two or more subtypes or strains can lead to genetic reassortment and new strains of LPAI arise virtually overnight. Then, by fecal-oral transmission, the altered form(s) of the LPAI is transmitted from wild to domestic birds. Because domestic birds typically are housed at relatively high densities, the opportunity for the virus to mutate further and genetically reassort increases until a highly pathogenic form of the virus may emerge.^{2,4} Once a highly pathogenic virus becomes established in avian flocks, it tends to die out (i.e., a 'dead end' in the life cycle of the virus);¹⁰ the virus ends up eliminating its host.

Most wild bird outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza are minor, self-limiting, and short-lived.² The unusual thing about HP H5N1 is that it has shown an ability to move back into wild bird populations and be sustained there for some period of time. This appears to have been true in April 2005 when H5N1 killed over six thousand birds in several weeks at Qinghai Lake in central China, and outbreaks of H5N1 continue in wild birds in the Qinghai region (several hundred kilometers south of Qinghai Lake) still today (a year later, May 2006).¹¹ China certainly is not alone in having wild birds die from HP H5N1; as of March 2006, the virus was reported to have caused die-offs of water birds in at least 30 countries in Asia, Europe, and Africa.²

Presently, it appears the bird-to-human species barrier is substantial for HP H5N1, as is the human-to-human barrier.¹² In late April 2006, the World Health Organization level of pandemic alert for H5N1 was "Phase 3 – a novel influenza virus subtype causes human infections, but does not spread efficiently or sustainably from one person to another."¹² The primary concern now is the potential for H5N1 to evolve quickly to become more transmissible between birds and mammals and from mammal to mammal. One scenario of this process is that a person becomes simultaneously infected with a less serious human influenza virus and the H5N1 virus. The two viral types combine genetic material within the person's host cells (i.e., genetic reassortment), which results in a new strain

that is both highly pathogenic and contagious (due to one or more genes it has inherited from the human influenza virus). The person then starts shedding newly evolved viral particles and a pandemic begins almost instantly. For this reason, WHO advises special precautions be taken by individuals who live in avian influenza areas to avoid contact with both H5N1 and the less serious human influenza viruses.¹³ This also is why WHO recommends that individuals at increased risk for exposure to HP H5N1 should be vaccinated against the more common seasonal influenzas (H1 and H3).¹⁴

Transmission of H5N1 can occur via contact with respiratory secretions, feces, contaminated feathers or blood, environmental contamination (e.g., soil), and via consumption of raw poultry or other birds that are infected.² In most human cases, infection appears to have resulted from very close contact with sick or dead birds, such as children playing with the birds or adults butchering or defeathering them. In a few cases, children exposed to chicken feces in areas where the children played that were frequented by free-ranging poultry is thought to have caused infection, and swimming in (or drinking) water contaminated by avian feces and/or dead birds also has been suspected as a source of infection.¹⁵

In most cases, patients infected with H5N1 show rapid clinical deterioration, with onset of acute respiratory distress about six days following the one-week (perhaps up to two-week) incubation period.¹⁵ The binding sites through which H5N1 infection occurs in humans and perhaps some other mammals are thought to be in the lower respiratory tract (i.e., lungs), whereas readily transmissible influenza strains bind in the upper respiratory tract (bronchii). This may explain both the lower transmissibility to humans and the more severe pathogenicity, which involves destruction of lung tissue such that human patients tend to drown in their own lung fluids.¹⁶ Other serious complications include multi-organ failure and disseminated intra-vascular coagulation,¹⁵ which may relate to a recent discovery that H5N1 viruses occur in the bloodstream of at least some infected humans.¹⁷ Type A influenza viraemia (viral infection of the blood) is somewhat unusual, since Type A influenzas more typically infect respiratory and digestive membranes. Mortality rates associated with HPAI H5N1 infection in humans has been extremely high -- to date (mid-May 2006), over half of the humans confirmed to have been infected with H5N1 have died, including 115 deaths of 208 infected individuals from 10 countries, mostly in Asia (55.3% mortality; Appendix C).⁶

Potential Impacts on Wildlife & Implications for Conservation

LPAI influenza viruses have been isolated from at least 105 wild bird species from 26 families. Further, although many avian species harbor these viruses, birds that are associated with wetlands are more commonly affected (especially, Order Anseriformes [ducks, geese, and swans] and Order Charadriiformes [gulls, terns, and wading birds], which represent the primary natural reservoir for the viruses). Also, among waterfowl, the marsh ("dabbling") ducks show much higher rates of infection over the deep-water ("diving") ducks.¹⁸ Studies have indicated that certain ducks may have a higher level of tolerance for HPAI viruses (including H5N1), and may excrete viral particles without showing symptoms.²



In addition to concerns for increased opportunities for spread of the virus along migratory routes,^{2,19} the reversion of H5N1 back into wild bird populations has raised concerns related to conservation of biodiversity, including possible impacts on rare and endangered species.¹⁹ An example of the impact H5N1 can have on wild populations relates to the single epizootic episode at Qinghai Lake, China in April 2005, which appeared to have reduced the global population of Bar-headed Geese (*Anser indicus*) by 10%. If highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses should become widespread and abundant, it has been estimated 80% of bird species globally might be in jeopardy. The greatest risk might relate to corvids and vultures (because they feed on carrion), but many other rare wading birds, other raptors (owls, kites and eagles, especially sea and fish eagles), and numerous members of the largest order of birds, Passeriformes (perching birds) may be at risk.¹⁹

Beyond birds, concerns also relate to certain mammals and other species of wildlife. Carnivores, in particular, felids (tigers, leopards, and house cats), viverrids (civets), and mustelids (otters, mink, and stone martins) all have been confirmed with H5N1 and may be at greatest risk.^{2,7,19} If predator populations should become reduced through the impact of H5N1, it is feared that rodent and other nuisance species populations might explode, which could increase the spread of other disease, as well as significantly impact other wildlife, especially certain species that occur on islands.¹⁹

Finally, even if H5N1 should be confined mostly to domestic birds, it is feared that the culling of domestic ducks, chickens, etc. may lead to local human populations to increase their reliance on 'bushmeat' as an alternative source of protein, which could decimate various wildlife populations.¹⁹

Potential Impacts on Falconry & Suggested Practices

Clearly, H5N1 can infect falcons²⁰ and other raptors,⁷ as well many potential avian prey species.¹⁸ Although we are relatively few in number, falconers (together with our birds) could be considered 'at the front line' of potential exposure to H5N1. Although many questions deserve more complete answers to fully describe the actual threat of H5N1 to falconers and their birds (see "Remaining Questions, Media Hype, and Conclusion," below), increased awareness and some precautionary measures may be prudent nonetheless.

Offered below is a series of suggestions that falconers might consider to minimize possible exposure to HPAI viruses (this would include not only H5N1, but also other H5 viruses and those H7 and H9 viruses that have demonstrated highly pathogenic characteristics, as well). **Implementation of any of these suggestions should be tempered with an understanding of the prevalence of these HPAI viruses in a particular area or region.** In short, some falconers may benefit by greatly modifying their behaviors if HPAI is quite prevalent in their area, whereas other falconers may have little need to modify their activities where HPAI remains a more distant or rarer occurrence.

(1) General Awareness of HPAI

- Individual falconers need to keep abreast of HPAI monitoring efforts in their area and modify habits accordingly.
- The Internet has become a powerful resource for reviewing news about these viruses; but, newspapers, radio, television, and organizational newsletters also should be used for staying informed and disseminating related information. (See Appendix D for additional Internet sources not referenced in the text of this paper.)

(2) Raptor Food Supplies

- If you purchase food for your raptors (especially, avian food sources), inquire with the individual who raises the food about local environmental conditions and special measures they take to minimize possible infection of their flocks. (Questions might include: "What is the incidence of HPAI in your area?" "Is your facility adjacent to any natural wetlands or farmyard animals?" "Do small, wild birds have access to your colony and/or food or water supplies?" "How often do you cleanse and disinfect your breeding, brooding, and rearing equipment/facilities?" "When you acquire new stock, do you take any measures to quarantine the newly acquired birds?" "How might your practices change if a HPAI virus currently is not present in your area, but might be found locally in the future?" Etc.)
- If you raise your own raptor food, consider the same questions for your operation.
- Cut the feet, heads and wings from birds you feed your raptors to reduce contamination from feces, etc. Also, consider removing entrails; although, as we know, certain visceral organs are highly nutritious. Further, the removal of entrails and appendages may do little to prevent infection of raptors, if food animals are infected internally.
- Be cautious about feeding captured or killed wild birds to your raptors. Also, due to the practice of feeding house cats to hawks/eagles in some regions, be aware that cats can become infected with HPAI viruses,^{7,21} presumably due to feeding on infected birds. Even though cats may not be considered a significant source of transmission,²² if an infected cat should be fed to a raptor, the raptor could become infected.
- Remember that freezing may not destroy HPAI viruses; if food is infected when frozen, consider it infectious when thawed.
- Generally, maintain good hygiene when handling raptor food supplies (for your own protection, as well as that of your birds).

(3) Raptor Housing

- Maintain good hygiene in your raptor housing facilities, including routine washing and disinfecting.
- Exclude wild birds (or other animals) from accessing your mews, breeding/molting chambers, etc.
- If HPAI is known to occur in your area (especially, within 3 km of your raptor facilities – a distance that has been used to define 'containment zones'), consider wearing special rubber boots when entering raptor housing/breeding/molting facilities, as well as using a disinfectant foot bath or dip when entering and leaving the facility.



(4) Hunting Habits

- A major decision, especially if HPAI viruses have been confirmed recently in your area or along associated migratory routes, should be whether or not to even fly your bird(s) free until well after any danger of exposure has subsided. The 3-km distance referenced earlier relative to containment zones for HPAI likely would be too short a distance to use relative to known occurrences of HPAI and wild game species. In the absence of infected birds that continue to shed viral particles, ambient conditions (temperature, ultra-violet light, etc.) tend to destroy Type A viruses in the environment over time. To significantly reduce the risk of exposure, you may need to curtail flying your bird free for at least 21 days in warmer weather and longer (at least 30 days) in cooler weather following the last known occurrences of HPAI in your area or along associated migratory routes. The application of these kinds of time-/distance-criteria relative to your personal falconry decisions might be moderated by a good knowledge of migratory bird activity and confirmed reports of HPAI at more distant locations along migratory routes.
- Be aware that ducks perhaps are the prey most likely to be encountered that harbor HPAI viruses, although other birds your raptors pursue and capture also may be at risk.
- Realize that sick prey more likely may be targeted and captured by your raptors; thus, be cautious of any prey animal that appears sick or relatively 'easy to catch.' Consider quickly removing your bird from any prey animal that seemed particularly easy for your bird to capture (do not allow your bird to break into the animal), and leave the prey animal in the field. However, remember also that infected prey may not necessarily appear sick or easy to capture.
- Dabbling ducks may be at greater risk of infection by HPAI in comparison to diving ducks; if you should opt to continue hunting ducks and should have a choice, consider pursuing diving ducks over dabbling ducks.
- Seasonality may be important to risk management. A majority of waterfowl may harbor HPAI prior to fall migration; one source indicates 60% infection rates prior to southbound migration, and infection is more common in juveniles (presumably immunologically naïve and also easier prey). On the other hand, infection rates in wintering and northbound migrants in spring may be well below 1%.¹⁸ Thus, if you wish to fly your birds early in the fall, consider avoiding ducks and other water birds and hunt alternative prey instead.

(5) Handling Prey

- As noted earlier, be particularly wary of handling prey animals that appear sick or easy to catch, especially if you intend to feed it to your raptor or consume it yourself.
- Use good hygiene when cleaning avian game. Clean game animals in a well-ventilated area, avoid breathing dust from the feathers, and avoid skin contact with blood and fecal waste (wash well with hot water and soap if contact occurs). Consider wearing latex gloves and an approved facial mask and dispose of them properly; also, consider wearing outer clothing when cleaning game, and wash it separate from other clothing.
- Do not overlook your game bag or hunting vest relative to your regime of appropriate hygiene practices and sanitation measures.
- Cooking (i.e., minimum temperature of 70°C) WILL de-

stroy Type A influenza viruses. Adhere to this recommendation and other recommendations in the World Health Organization's "Five Keys to Safer Food" when preparing meals from wild or domestic fowl.²³

(6) Reporting Sick Wildlife

- Report any suspicious or odd-behaviors in wild birds to proper local authorities.
- Leave the collection and disposal of sick or dead birds to those who are qualified to handle them.

(7) Quarantining Birds

- If not already required to quarantine newly acquired raptors or other birds (especially those that might come from regions having a history of HPAI), consider voluntarily quarantines based on recommendations of licensed veterinarians.

(8) Vaccinations

- A danger with use of vaccines is that the virus can be camouflaged by the vaccine, which might actually facilitate spread of the disease. Moreover, vaccines might introduce a different AI viral strain into a population and enhance the chance of mutations/genetic reassortment. Currently, there are no vaccines tested and officially approved for falcons – only some that are approved for poultry. Nobody knows yet about contraindications or side-effects from use of poultry vaccines in falcons. Vaccinations of falcons may promote a false feeling of security in falconers.
- The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that several avian influenza virus vaccines currently are available; however, individual countries control use within their boundaries.²⁴ Zoos in some parts of Europe have been granted permission to vaccinate resident birds, and falcons in some regions apparently have been vaccinated using heterologous vaccines (e.g., vaccines for H5N2, H5N3, H5N9, and H7N1, which provide for immunological response to one of the two antigens in H5N1).²⁵ However, if you vaccinate your falcon using a heterologous (e.g., H7) vaccine, your falcon still may get H5 or some other HPAI strain. Finally, there exists an inactivated recombinant virus vaccine for H5N1 created from 1996 Guangdong goose and human H5N1 vaccine viruses;²⁴ there are reports of a proposal to use this homologous vaccine to vaccinate falcons in the United Arab Emirates soon.²⁵ However, according to some individuals, many questions still need to be addressed before vaccination of falcons should proceed.²⁵
- As vaccines might become more widely approved and available, falconers should adhere strictly to veterinarian and national recommendations regarding decisions to vaccinate their raptors or food animals, which vaccine(s) to use, when to vaccinate, etc.

(9) Transport of Birds/Illegal Trafficking

- When transporting birds of any type, falconers and others should abide by local, national, and international regulations and restrictions on transport of birds. (Appendix E contains URL links to websites in the English language that may be helpful in this regard.)
- Falconers and others should remain vigilant to any illegal trafficking or transport of birds and report violations to



the proper authorities. (Many suggest that illegal transport and trafficking of birds is the greatest contributor to the spread of HPAI viruses, including H5N1.)

Remaining Questions, Media Hype & Conclusion

Much of the information in this article was obtained from Internet sources (not peer-reviewed scientific journals); moreover, a fair amount of media hyperbole has focused on avian influenza in recent months. In some cases, it appears that certain individuals who have made fairly serious claims may not be the most authoritative individuals to assert those claims. The reader should be cautioned about presuming that H5N1 represents a major health threat to falconers and their birds in most areas presently.

Questions that need to be more completely answered include:

- How long has H5N1 existed naturally and exactly when did it take on its HPAI form? (There is some thought that H5N1 has existed since 1959, if not much earlier. Also, quite possibly the highly pathogenic form of H5N1 existed much earlier than the mid-1990's and that increased surveillance and monitoring in recent years simply gives the impression it is a disease of more recent origins.)
- Has HPAI H5N1 truly been 'spreading' from an Asian epicenter as suggested by the information that has become available recently? (In line with the question above, it is possible HPAI H5N1 has been endemically rare in many areas for quite some time and that the appearance of its geographic spread may be related to increased efforts at monitoring and detection in the past few months and years.)
- Are waterfowl really more prone to carry HPAI H5N1, or are they simply more likely to be discovered when they become infected? (Although some of the information reported earlier on differential infection rates amongst birds may be accurate, it is true that a sick or dead waterfowl is much more easily detected than a land bird that becomes sick or dies in the forest or other vegetation, perhaps to be scavenged more quickly, too.)
- Do many birds (even domesticated birds) recover from H5N1 when not heavily immunocompromised? (There is some evidence that many birds exposed to H5N1 will recover, especially if they are not unduly stressed or maintained under otherwise poor living conditions. Poorly managed and stressed birds, including hawks and falcons, succumb more readily to serious disease and illness. Once H5N1 is discovered in a large flock of fowl, wholesale depopulation of the flocks occurs as a measure to prevent further spread of the virus. A related question is, "What percentage of the flock might have never become infected, or might have survived if they had become infected, had the flock never been culled?")
- Just how much of a threat is HPAI H5N1 to issues related to conservation of biodiversity? (Was the 10% reduction of the world's Bar-headed Goose population that resulted from the episode at Qinghai Lake an anomaly; or, was that an example of more widespread and frequent die-offs that may occur in the future? Some 'authorities' who have claimed that a majority of the world's bird populations may be threatened by H5N1 may not have been the individuals best suited to make such claims. Yet, that's exactly the kind of hype that world leaders in conservation and regulatory/policy-setting positions may use to initiate increased regulations.)

The answers to these (and perhaps many other) questions may be quite some time in coming. Furthermore, the lag in time between good research and peer-reviewed publication of research results will further extend the time for the answers to these kinds of questions to become more broadly known. In the meantime, whether or not falconers must deal directly with H5N1 as a disease, we all likely will have to deal increasingly with restrictions related to fears of the disease. Therefore, it behooves all falconers and falconry organizations to become as informed as possible about the reality of H5N1 and related factual information and to counter (when possible and necessary) hysterical responses to media hype and public fears with reason, common sense, and a balanced awareness.

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Appendix A – Examples of recent (October 2005 through April 2006) and upcoming (May-June 2006) international meetings that address avian influenza entirely or in part.^a

**23-27 October 2005,
Dakar, Senegal**

Third Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA). Resolution 3.18 was adopted, which urged a response to the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

**7-9 November 2005,
Geneva, Switzerland**

Meeting on Avian Influenza and Human Pandemic Influenza. Meeting was co-sponsored by the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

**8-15 November 2005,
Kampala, Uganda**

Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention. Participants adopted Resolution IX.23, which called for fully integrated approaches, at both national and international levels, to address highly pathogenic avian influenza.

**20-25 November 2005,
Nairobi, Kenya**

Eighth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). Participants adopted Resolution 8.27, which called for support and capacity building for research related to disease processes in migratory bird species, long-term monitoring of their movements and populations, and rapid development of surveillance programs for HPAI in populations of wild birds.

**17-18 January 2006,
Beijing, China**

International Pledging Conference on Avian and Human Influenza. Event was co-sponsored by the Government of China, the European Commission, and the World Bank. Pledge of US\$ 1.9 billion in financial support and discussions on coordination mechanisms; adoption of the "Beijing Declaration," which committed to effective development and implementation of integrated national action plans, long-term strategic partnerships, information sharing, increased cooperation on global research, and periodic evaluation of national pandemic influenza preparedness and action plans.

**20-31 March 2006,
Curitiba, Brazil**

Eighth Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Brainstorming session on HPAI preceded the meeting, during which participants highlighted: (1) threats to migratory species and wetlands; (2) knowledge gaps; and, (3) need for capacity building. During the COP, participants adopted a Decision on Avian Flu (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/L.35), in which the brainstorming session was acknowledged and similar consultations were encouraged when emerging issues impacting CBD may arise.

**3-6 April 2006,
Cambridge, United Kingdom**

Sixth International Symposium on Avian Influenza. Participants addressed lessons learned from recent outbreaks in Asia, Africa, and Europe and recent epidemiological and virological information. Short- and long-term needs were recognized, including enhanced scientific information, cross-sectoral and international cooperation, and improved awareness among decision makers and the general public.

**10-11 April 2006,
Nairobi, Kenya**

Scientific Seminar on Avian Influenza, the Environment and Migratory Birds. Meeting organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) in cooperation with the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and its Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA).

**30-31 May 2006,
Rome, Italy**

International Scientific Conference on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds. Conference organized by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to exchange scientific information on AI and the role of wild birds, to assess the risk of the introduction of HPAI virus to yet uninfected areas, as well as to propose mitigation and preventive measures.²⁶

**29-30 June 2006,
Paris, France**

First International Conference on Avian Influenza in Humans. Sponsored by the International Society of Antioxidant in Nutrition and Health and others.²⁷

^a Unless otherwise indicated, the source of information on these meetings was *Scientific Seminar on Avian Influenza, the Environment and Migratory Birds (10-11 April 2006, Nairobi, Kenya)*. International Institute for Sustainable Development, Vol. 123(1), 14 April 2006. (<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/ais/2>)

Appendix B – Countries with avian cases of H5 avian influenza viruses detected in wild/domestic birds.^a

Since December 2003 through 10 May 2006, avian influenza (type H5 or subtypes H5N1 or H5N2) have been detected in poultry and/or wild birds in the countries listed below:

- # poultry outbreaks of H5N1 (shown in parentheses)
- countries with confirmed H5 virus since 1 January 2006 in **bold font**
- assume H5N1, unless otherwise indicated

Africa:

- Burkina Faso** (1)
- Cameroon** (1)
- Cote d'Ivoire** (1)
- Djibouti**²⁸
- Niger** (1)
- Nigeria** (69)
- Sudan** (H5)
- Zimbabwe (H5N2)

East Asia & the Pacific:

- Cambodia (16)
- China (79)



Hong Kong (SARPRC)
 Indonesia (211)
 Japan (also, H5N2) (7)
 Korea (Republic of) (19)
 Laos (1)
 Malaysia (15)
 Mongolia
Myanmar (Burma) (11)
 Philippines (H5)
 Taipei China (H5N2)
 Thailand (1,078)
 Vietnam (2,312)

South Asia:

Afghanistan (13)
India (2)
 Kazakhstan (1)
Pakistan (4)

Near East:

Egypt (15)
Iraq (3)
Iran
Israel (9)
Jordan (1)
 Kuwait
Palestinian Auton. Territories (8)
Saudi Arabia (H5)20

Europe & Eurasia:

Albania (2)
Austria
Azerbaijan (2)
Bosnia & Herzegovina
Bulgaria
 Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark
France (1)
Georgia
Germany (1)
Greece
Hungary
Italy
Poland
 Romania (57)
 Russia (121)
Serbia & Montenegro
Slovakia
Slovenia
Sweden
Switzerland
 Turkey (176)
 Ukraine (22)
United Kingdom

Appendix C – Number of human deaths and lab-confirmed cases of H5N1 infections worldwide from January 2004 to 12 May 2006.^a

From January 2004 to 12 May 2006, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) in the following countries (# deaths / # confirmed infections) – date of most recent update for country:

Africa:

Djibouti (0 / 1) – 12 May 2006

East Asia & the Pacific:

Cambodia (6 / 6) – 6 April 2006
 China (12 / 18) – 27 April 2006
 Indonesia (25 / 33) – 8 May 2006
 Thailand (14 / 22) – 9 December 2005
 Vietnam (42 / 93) – 25 November 2005

Europe & Eurasia:

Azerbaijan (5 / 8) – 11 April 2006
 Turkey (4 / 12) – 18 January 2006

Near East:

Egypt (5 / 13) – 5 May 2006
 Iraq (2 / 2) – 1 March 2006

Total: (115 deaths / 208 confirmed H5N1 infections – 55.3% mortality rate)

^a Source: World Health Organization. 12 May 2006. Cumulative number of confirmed human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) reported to WHO.

(http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2006_05_12/en/index.html)⁶

Appendix D – Additional sources of information on HPAI.

(Access appendix in full article as posted on the IAF website, www.i-a-f.org.)

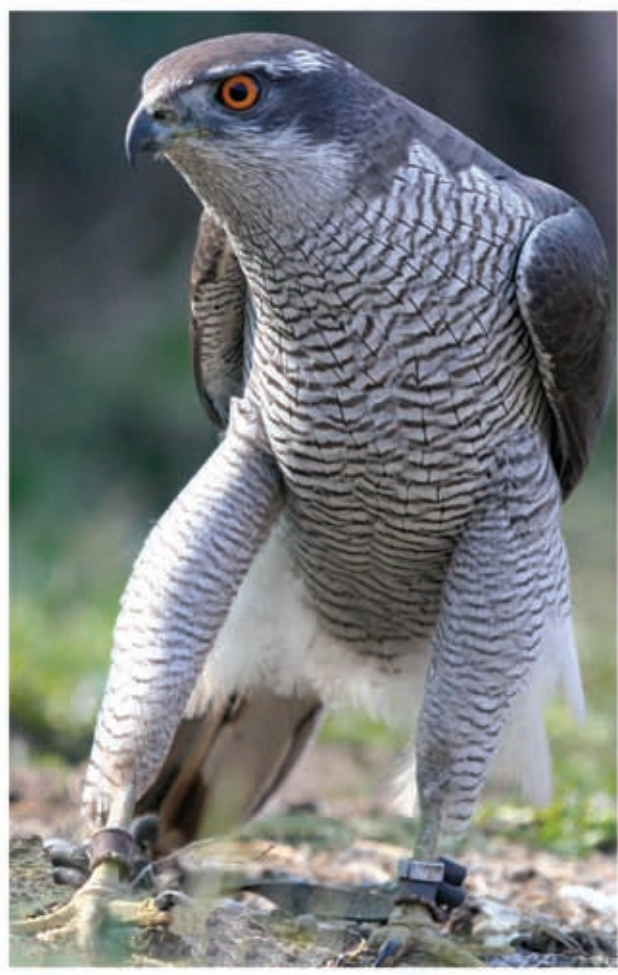
Appendix – E. Website links to information on governmental restrictions related to avian influenza available in English.

(Access appendix in full article as posted on the IAF website, www.i-a-f.org.)

^a Unless otherwise noted with reference to literature cited, the sources used for this compilation included:

World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Update on Avian Influenza in Animals (Type H5) website (10 May 2006 update) (http://www.oie.int/download/AVIAN%20INFLUENZA/A_AI-Asia.htm)²⁹

World Health Organization H5N1 Avian Influenza Timeline (8 May 2006 update) (http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/timeline.pdf)⁷





A BRIEF HISTORY OF WORLD FALCONRY

By Garry Timbrell

At the Abu Dhabi Symposium on "Falconry: a World Heritage" in September '05 experts on many aspects of falconry met and gave presentations on their various specialities. Falconry from all regions of the world was represented and many exiting facts came up that were previously unknown to those of us restricted to learning from our own compatriots and from books written in our own language.¹

Here is a short summary from a layman's point of view. My apologies to those countries whose names and histories do not appear, the number of experts that were able to attend the symposium was sadly limited.

A significant problem with recorded history is that history can only be recorded where written records exist. We are certain the origins of falconry go back much further than the origins of writing because the earliest written records found describe a highly organised and technical falconry that must have taken many hundreds, if not thousands of years to evolve to that level of sophistication. Many experts present at the Symposium are engaged in almost full-time research into this very elusive subject.

Falconry was practiced **Mongolia** at a very remote period and was already in very high favour some 1000 years BC, that's 3000 years ago. It achieved a very high level of refinement on the military campaigns of the Great Khans who practiced falconry for food and for sport between battles. One such military expedition reached almost to the gates of Vienna. By the time of Marco Polo there were over 60 officials managing over 5000 trappers and more than 10 000 falconers and falconry workers.

Falconry was combined with legal and military affairs, diplomacy and land colonisation and moved accordingly, reaching **Korea** in 220 BC and Japan much later. In **China** itself the culture of falconry once occupied a very significant role – there are many historic remains in literature, poems, painting and porcelain describing it in the culture of the imperial family, the nobility and the social life of the ordinary people. Chinese falconry had an inseparable relationship with politics and power and written records go back prior to 700BC. These depict a very mature and technical falconry, exactly parallel with techniques used today. The imperial family of the time (Chu Kingdom) were already using falcons, eagles and shortwings in exactly the same way we do. This would put the birth of falconry in

the region (if indeed this was where falconry was born) at well over 3 000 years ago.

Falconry was strong in China right into the early 1900's. It enjoyed imperial patronage and was popular among the aristocracy and even common people all through the centuries; largely due to the medieval society China endured all this time. With the decline and fall of the imperial family in 1912, falconry at a high level became feeble and died. At the same time the falconry of the common people declined through conflict between ethnic groups, invasion by eight different foreign countries and ultimately, World and Civil Wars. Now falconry survives in the ethnic minority groups – the Hui, Weir, Naxi etc.

Hunting is not allowed under the Chinese Wildlife Conservation Act of 1989. This act was designed to protect rare species like tiger, bear, panda etc. from shooting and trapping, but at the time no one knew the importance of falconry in the culture of these small communities. There is now no proper way for young people to learn and pass on their falconry heritage with goshawks and sparrowhawks. How can the heritage and the rich and long cultural history of Chinese falconry be preserved when no one is coming into it? How can it be made legal and official, coordinating relations between falconers and conservation? How can we avoid Chinese falconry disappearing in 10-15 years? Perhaps these are some of the questions that can be addressed under the UNESCO Convention For the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003.

Japan's isolation by the sea meant that the natural advance of falconry did not come till quite late, the first written records are from 355 A.D. (Nihon Shoki) from Pekche, which documented hawks exported from Korea to Japan. There is considerable archaeological evidence then from the 6th century onwards. In ancient times Japanese Hawking was done by falconers on horseback and armed with bows on their back. This gave a deliberate martial effect to a hawking party, designed to intimidate and overawe lesser mortals. The scene of a hawking departure deeply impressed spectators, so hawking was used very effectively to symbolise and publicly demonstrate military power and dominance over the land. Because of this, the central rulers always tried to monopolize or even ban hawking through laws and Buddhist ideology, while the emerging local lords kept hawking in practice either through connections with those in influential positions or through finding religious excuses in Shintoism. This importance of public demonstration in Japanese falconry created a tradition of beautiful costumes and elaborate equipment the aesthetics of which have survived to the present day.

Imperial Falconers existed under the Imperial Household Ministry until the War after which falconry became open to distribution to the public by a system of apprenticeships to retired imperial falconers leading to the "Schools of Falconry", the Yedo school, the Yoshida School (Niwa Arie) etc. the ideals of which exist to the present day. There was

¹ Speakers at the Symposium whose work has been used in this article: Mr. Majid Al Mansouri (UAE); Mr. Jevgeni Shergalin (Estonia); Mr. Ali Yazdani (Iran); Teruo Morimoto San (Japan); Mr. Frank Bond (USA); Dr. Helen Macdonald (UK); Dr. Adrian Lombard (South Africa); Prof. José Manuel Fradejas Rueda, (Spain); Mr. Carlos Bernabéu González (Spain); Dr. Xiaode Ye (China); Brig. Ahmed Mukhtar, (Pakistan); Mr. János Tóth (Hungary); Mr. Ata Eyberdiev (Turkmenistan); Dr. Nick Fox (UK); Mr. José Manuel Rodríguez-Villa (Spain);

Other speakers at the Symposium whose work was not used here were: Mr. Gadi Mgonezulu, UNESCO; Dr. Benno Boer, UNESCO; HE Mohamed Al Bowardi (UAE); Prof. Baudouin Van den Abeele (Belgium); Mr. Christian de Coune (Belgium); Mr. Mohammed Nour Eddine Fatehi (Morocco); Prof. Thomas Richter (Germany); Dr. Robert Kenward (UK); Lieut. Col. Kent Carnie (USA); Dr. Thomas Cade (USA). Some outside sources were also used.



also a folk tradition of subsistence hunting with Mountain Hawk eagles dating from the early 19th century. Unfortunately this bore the brunt of opposition by birdwatcher fanatics and it is believed that currently only one austringer remains in this tradition.

Despite a belief that falconry originated in the Mongolian steppes, **Iran/Persia** is sometimes also cited as the cradle of falconry. A theory put forward at the Symposium suggested a possible "parallel evolution" - with the first hunting birds of prey trained at around the same time in both the Mongolian steppes and in Iran. In documented Iranian history the one who used birds of prey for the first time was Tahmooreth, a king of the Pishdadid dynasty, 2000 years before Zoroaster who himself lived around 6000 BC. This could mean hunting with falcons has a background of 8 to 10 000 years. This was one of the most interesting hypotheses at the Symposium and was presented with several proofs (dates of dynasties, approximate lengths of generations and reigns etc.). The first complete book on falconry was the *Baznameh-e-Naseri*, in the 12th century commissioned by *Naseraddin Shah*, the Qajar king. This famous tome has been translated to English, French and German.

In modern times the story is repeated in Iran as elsewhere: falconry declined as guns developed and in political unrest resulting in the overthrow of the royal family and subsequent revolution. Since the revolution overthrowing the Shah, the Department of the Environment has forbidden breeding, buying and selling of any birds of prey as well as falconry. Several non-governmental organizations in Iran are witnessing a range of demands from young people asking about falconry and training of birds of prey. There is now a revival based on preserving and restructuring traditional methods, but heavy urbanization and the introduction of western elements make it difficult.

In the **Indo-Pakistan** sub-continent, falconry appears to have been known from at least 600 years BC. Falconry became especially popular with the nobility and the Mughals were keen falconers. Surprisingly, the humble sparrowhawk was the favourite of the mighty Emperor Akbar. In the Indus Valley, falconry was considered a life-sustaining instrument for the desert dwellers, while those from the green belts considered it as a noble art and used the falcons as symbol of high birth and luxury. Organized hunting parties would go out for game. Richard Burton, the famous 19th Century historian and translator, wrote extensively about falconry in the Indus Valley, citing the interesting practices of its communities in his book "The Valley of the Indus."

In India, in the Rajput States - in Jaipur, Bhavnagar etc. the royal families continued to cherish the sport of hawking till the 1940s, but then partition and subsequent political problems did for falconry in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Nowadays, while there are many people who have paper knowledge of the birds, there are very few with practical knowledge left. In India there appear to be only three persons who possess the traditional skills. One of them is Col. Osman (Brother of King Zaeer Shah of Afghanistan); the others are Shantanu Kumar and Shahid Khan, both of Jaipur whose ancestors were professional falconers to Kumar Shree Dharmakumarsinghji, brother of the Maharaja of Bhavnagar.

Modern Pakistan, since partition from India and the loss of royal patronage, has had no falconry. The new state's modern laws of the 1950s banned falconry to Pakistanis. However, hunting tourism is permitted and since the 1960's wealthy foreigners have paid for the privilege of there. This has led to problems- when commercialism enters common sense exits, but regulation has finally come and trappers must be licensed and are restricted to 15. Conservation groups like Falcons International (itself funded by Arab falconers) are now demanding a zero quota. The Environmental Agency of Abu Dhabi and Falcon Foundation International Pakistan have joined hands to work for the conservation of falcons, including the annual release of falcons back into the wild under the Falcon Release Programme. These annual releases include falcons from several Gulf States that have spent a season hawking legally as well as illegal birds confiscated from smugglers. The confiscation of those illegal birds is part of the country's efforts to implement stricter wildlife trade regulations. Because of connections with the Arab market, Pakistan is the foremost producer of falconry equipment in the world.

Falconry in **Russia** has an ancient history, its roots found probably in the 8th and 9th centuries. It came to the Eastern Slavic tribes from their southern neighbours and from the Huns and Khazars, the Turkic speaking nomadic nation who created in the fifth century a country whose boundaries stretched over the modern Dagestan, Cis-Azov Sea area, the Crimea, the Don River region and the Lower Volga River area. At the end of the ninth century, the ancient-Russian knight Oleg built the falcon yard in Kiev. Vladimir, son of Yaroslav Mudryi who ruled between 1019-1054 issued the first legislative acts regulating falconry. Historical chronicle returns many times to the mention of falconry as an important feature of the everyday life of Russian princes. Falconry was loved by Prince Igor, famous for his unsuccessful military trip to Polovets in 1185. Even when in captivity this prince did not change his habits and continued to fly hawks.

An interesting legend exists about Saint Trifon, whose day is celebrated by orthodox Christians on 14th February: the boyar (nobleman) Patrikiev had the bad luck to lose a falcon belonging to Tsar Ivan the Terrible. Fearing the worst, he prayed to a local saint, Trifon (or Triphon), to show him where it was. Sure enough the saint appeared in a dream and showed him where to look. In return the boyar built and dedicated a church. Religious icons of St. Trifon show him in a falconer's pose with a falcon on his fist.

During the middle ages falconry flourished in Russia, especially in the Moscow Principality. One of the Moscow districts is even now known as "Sokolniki", which translates "Falconers" or "Site of Falconers". Falconry had its heyday during the reign of Alexei Mikhailovich Romanov (1626-1676), father of Peter the Great, but, as elsewhere, it had practically died out among the elite of Russian society by the end of 19th - beginning of 20th century. After October 1917 falconry was not officially prohibited but was not supported by government and that in reality meant one and the same thing. However, in two regions where falconers were simple common people it continued to exist: in Transcaucasia (Georgia) and in the republics of the Middle Asia, where falconry was one of several hunting methods for acquiring a food or receiving of furs. In Russia, even during Soviet time falcons and hawks were



used to scare hooded crows from the cupolas in the Moscow Kremlin. Besides the constant noise, the crows' feet were wearing off the thin layer of gold that covered the cupolas. Corvids, especially Hooded Crows, were especially numerous in Moscow centre. There were three falconers that did this work and they had to be employed by the Kremlin's security service (the former KGB). Since 2003 Russian falconers have been holding fieldmeets and Russia has applied for IAF Membership. In the Ukraine there is now a club, established five years ago, which has also applied for IAF Membership. At the moment there is a restoration of falconry in the ex-USSR. In Lithuania there are about six falconers hunting goshawks. Medieval falconry was developed in Lithuania as a part of Joint Polish-Lithuanian Kingdom with much bigger territory than now. In Estonia there are only three falconers and a recent ban has been forced on them.

Falconry is known in **Georgia** since the 5th century and is most remarkable for its tradition of flying passage sparrowhawks at quail. This was clearly described in literature of the early 19th century and similar living traditions exist today in Tunisia and Turkey. For many centuries ordinary people in Western Georgia have hunted with sparrowhawks while the more elite of society of Eastern Georgia flew goshawks and falcons. Georgia was the first of the former Soviet states to formally legalize falconry in 1967. In the town of Poti there is monument devoted to bazieri (sparrowhawkers). For many decades the Chairman of Falconry section and the Head of all the Georgian bazieri was the medical Doctor Givi Chogovadze who died last year. There are over 500 registered bazieri at the present time.

Kazakhstan is a country the size of Europe – mountain and steppe, barely touched by modern civilization and whose inhabitants are mostly farmers and part-time farmers. Its falconers continue the Central Asian tradition of flying golden eagles at hare for food and at fox and wolf for furs and flock. Until modern times this was a subsistence necessity for the peoples of Kazakhstan as well as in Kirghizstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and Mongolia and the ethnic minorities in Western China.

Falconry tradition in **Turkmenistan** differs greatly from the neighbouring traditions of eagles in Kazakhstan and the other central Asian republics to the north and east. It is much more like the traditional falconry of Iran and Afghanistan using sakers and tazy (the Turkmen version of the saluki) at the desert hare. Falconers traditionally spend five months of the year in the desert staying with their hawks, their tazy and their falconry mentors. The Oguz Khan tribes, forefathers of the Turkmen people who lived 5 000 years ago, had falconry symbols on their ancestral emblems, carpets, pottery and other archaeological finds. In literature falconry appears in many Turkmen classics of the 15th –17th centuries, authors such as Sayilly, Makhtumkuli, Seyidi, Mollanepes who were also falconers. There are more than 60 proverbs and sayings in Turkmen folklore that cite falcons and falconry. Falconry is seen as a sign of equality. You find the falcon carried by the countryman as well as the city-dweller, by worker as well as academic or cultural workers; it is seen as instilling ideals of nature protection.

Arabia Falconry: falconry appeared with the emergence of civilizations and was already popular in the Middle East and Arabian Gulf region several millennia BC. In the Al

Rafidein region (Iraq) it was widely practiced 3500 years BC; in 2000 BC the Gilgamesh Epic clearly referred to hunting by birds of prey in Iraq; there are drawings and scripts inside Pharaonic temples showed the importance of falcons for the Old Egyptians. The Babylonians created a Divan for falcons and made game reserves for quarry species. Al Harith bin Mu'awiya, an early King of the present region that includes Saudi Arabia, was one of the first who trained and hunted by falcons. The Omayyad caliphs and princes, such as Mu'awiya bin Abi Sufyan and Hisham bin Abdul Malek, practiced falconry and falconry had a good position in the Abbasid period. The caliph Haroun Al Rash-eed was fond of the sport and exchanged falcon-gifts with the other kings. The Arab poets composed a lot of poems lauding the falcon and all Arab classes – Kings, Sheikhs and cavalry – practiced falconry and bequeathed it to the next generations;

The Arabian Gulf region became famous for its falconers and falconry traditions. Through Arab influence it spread out through the Islamic World, eastwards into the great Islamic Empires of Central Asia and westwards across North Africa to the Magreb, giving us the distinctive styles of falconry of the Bedouin, of the Kingdom of Moroccan and the Magreb and of Tunisia (passage sparrowhawks at quail – note similarities with the falconry of eastern Turkey and Transcaucasia). The Holy Koran itself includes a falconry-related verse that permits falconry as a hunting method.

Falconry is considered a symbol of this region's civilization more than any other region in the world; 50% of the world's falconers exist in the Middle East, which includes the Arab region. In the philosophy of the region hunting trips teach patience, endurance and self-reliance and bravery can be learned from falcons.

The earliest evidence of falconry in Europe is usually considered to be from the 5th century AD, written quotations from Paulinus of Pella and Sidonius Apollinaris in France and the famous mosaics in the Falconer's Villa in Argos (Greece). For over a thousand years, falconry was extremely popular in Europe and carried enormous cultural and social capital. A marker of high social status, falconry was considered an essential part of a gentleman's education, for it was thought to prevent sickness and damnation and demanded the cultivation of personal qualities such as patience, endurance and skill.

Using the term 'European' falconry is in one sense misleading, because falconry techniques and technologies have been traded across European and other countries for centuries. For example, in the thirteenth century, Arab falconry techniques were imported into Europe through Spain and through the court of Frederick II of Hohenstaufen, in Sicily. He employed Arab, English, Spanish, German and Italian falconers, and translated important Arab falconry works. His masterwork *de arte venandi cum avibus* distils the falconry knowledge of many cultures. Falconry was a means of cultural communication, because its symbolic system was shared between most cultures of the known world and falcons made ideal diplomatic gifts. Its geographical reach was extraordinary.

Seventeenth century falcon-traders brought falcons to the French Court from Flanders, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, Norway, Sicily, Corsica, Sardinia, the Balearic Islands, Spain, Turkey, Alexandria, the Barbary States, and India. Falconry



wasn't merely an amusement; it was a fierce articulation of social and political power; a deadly serious pastime, considered among the finest of all earthly pursuits - and big business.

By the end of the seventeenth century, the use of falcons as diplomatic gifts gradually faded, and falconry's connection with nobility won it no favours after the French Revolution. It faded away in favour of the new sport of shooting. By the nineteenth century, only a very few individuals still practised the sport in Europe. Now falconry clubs became necessary not simply to maintain both the social traditions of falconry, but the knowledge of falconry itself. Somehow, falconry's living tradition survived with just sufficient falconers to pass on their treasured knowledge. Falconry's had a renaissance in most European countries in the 1920s and 1930s and its popularity increased further in the 1950s and 1960s. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, much of falconry's intangible heritage was safeguarded by what UNESCO calls living treasures - proficient falconers who could teach apprentices not only the practical methods of falconry, but also its intangible dimensions. They communicated the ethical codes of falconry sportsmanship and could instil in their pupils an awareness of the emotional bonds falconers have with their falcons, quarry and hawking land.

Spain and Portugal. Recent exciting discoveries of images from the 3rd century BC in Eastern Spain, that show falconry scenes are currently under scrutiny by academics. Until these were found scholars believed falconry entered Spain in the 5th century AD, coming from North Africa with the Moorish Kings and along the northern Mediterranean coast from Eastern Europe with the Goths at approximately the same time. Much of the history of pre-16th century Iberian Falconry is intertwined with Arab falconry of the time and written references abound in the Arabic language, for example in the 10th century Calendar of Cordoba and from Abd al-Yalil ibn Wahbaun in the 11th century. There are Islamic falconry images like the Leyre Chest. (1004-05 A.D.) now in Pamplona Museum, and the Al-Mugira jar. (968 A.D.) now in the Musée du Louver in Paris. Whereas in other parts of Western Europe many falconry terms have their origins in medieval French, in Spain and Portugal there are many terms derived from Arabic. Old Spanish and Portuguese books on falconry are numerous and stretch from the very early "Libro de las animalias que cazan" in Spanish, 1250, through Viscount Rocabertí's "Llibre de cetreria" in Catalan c.1390 to Diogo Fernandes Ferreira's "Arte de caça de altanería" 1616 in Portuguese and now in an English translation.

The Archivo Iberoamericano de Cetrería, the Ibero-American Falconry Archive, has been formed with government assistance to the University of Valladolid to make a census of manuscripts, to collect and catalogue all modern publications, to track down and photograph artwork, miniatures, paintings, sculptures, etc., to digitalize this material, to promote historical research and to make it all available to the public.

After a gap of two centuries, Falconry in Spain was recovered from scratch by Dr. Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente in the 1950's. Not having any practicing falconer around in Spain his sources were Spanish medieval falconry literature and foreign falconers like the late Abel Boyer of France. In 1964 de la Fuente wrote his outstanding "El Arte de

Cetrería" a masterpiece and a book of great influence not only in the Spanish, but for serious falconers everywhere. Félix, known as "the friend of animals", was one of the most popular celebrities in Spain thanks to his TV series on wildlife. In the '80's falconry started to flourish in Spain and Portugal and currently Spain is numbered in the top five falconry nations.

For centuries the **Netherlands** (the low lands -in that time part of the actual Belgium and Netherlands) was the centre of European falconry. Currently it has some very draconian laws regulating falconers; nevertheless falconry survives and thrives at a high level. The number of licences allowed for falconers is 200 over the whole of the Netherlands and they are permitted to fly only goshawks and peregrines at quarry. Five clubs exist, the largest two being the Nederlands Valkeniersverbond Adriaan Mollen and the Valkerij Equipage Jacoba van Beieren. The hey-day of falconry in the Netherlands came in the first half of the 19th century when it was a hub for falcon trading and trapping and many falconers of Valkenswaard were sent all around Europe from the 18th century. With royal patronage from the House of Orange and participation by gentlemen falconers from Holland, England, France and elsewhere in Europe the Loo Club was founded in 1839 and enjoyed a standard of "high flight" falconry at passage herons not seen since the 1600's.

The Netherlands has two falconry-related collections: the world famous falconry museum in Valkenswaard, the 18th and 19th century centre for hawk trapping which supplied hawks and professional falconers to the whole of Europe. There is also a globally important collection of over two hundred falconry-related books and other items in the National Library of the Netherlands, centred on a bequest in the late 1940s by Professor A. E. H. Swaen. There is also a Falconry Historical Foundation concerned with the history of the sport.

Belgium, so near to Valkenswaard and the main passage routes for migrating birds of prey also became renowned for commerce in hawks and its falconers in the early-modern period. Arendonk's falconers were renowned from the 12th century and the region of the Kempen was the homeland of Europe's finest professional falconers. Some families provided falconers for about 5 centuries. Nearly all of the well-spoken, multilingual, and cultured falconers who worked for Europe's fifteen to eighteenth-century ruling families were Flemish or Dutch. The city of Turnhout had a special court for falconers. The last falconmaster of the King of France in the years 1880 was a falconer from Arendonk. By the 1900s falconry had almost died out in Belgium but knew a new start in 1912 with Viscount Le Hardy de Beaulieu who entertained an "équipage" for crows and magpies led by a professional falconer till 1927. The true revival came with Charles Kruyffhooft in the late thirties. Charles is probably the latest European falconer who trapped passage peregrine falcons following the famous method used in Valkenswaard with a very sophisticated trapping hut. He flew crows and rooks each winter for about sixty years till his death in 1995. By the end of the second World War there remained only three active falconers in Belgium. In 1966 Belgian falconry had grown sufficiently for its falconers to form their own national organisation, the Club Marie de Bourgogne, named for the queen who died while hawking in 1482. Its first president was Charles Kruyffhooft followed by Christian de



Coune and Patrick Morel. In the sixties, political lobbying by falconers persuaded the government to grant a limited number of licenses to keep peregrines, goshawks or sparrowhawks in order to keep the cultural heritage of falconry alive. Christian de Coune and Patrick Morel succeeded in legalising falconry in 1985 and obtained a law which could be considered as one of the best regulation for falconry in the world. Throughout the 1990s, a total ban on falconry in Flanders was threatened but tireless efforts of falconers saved falconry and in 1993 it was finally given legal recognition as a method of hunting and pest control. Today about 200 falconers are active; there are several falconry clubs in Dutch speaking Flanders, but still only one national organisation, the Belgian Falconers Association “Club Marie de Bourgogne”. Belgian falconers face different legislative and political pressures in each region. Goshawks, redtails, harris hawks and sparrowhawks are the most commonly used hawks (as in most of the rest of Europe) in Flanders and there are some superlative longwingers too, flying peregrines and hybrid falcons mostly in the French talking Wallonia. IAF presidents Christian de Coune and Patrick Morel both hail from Belgium. There are many private collections of falconry art, tapestries, books and literature in Belgium, and two small falconry collections at the chateau of Lavaux Sainte Anne and at Taxandria Museum in Turnhout. The holly falconer’s patron “Saint Bavo” was born and lived in Belgium, he is buried in Gent.

From Saxon times until the eighteenth century, falconry was an intrinsic part of society in **Britain**. Some of the greatest books on falconry are practical texts by 16th and 17th century authors Latham, Bert, Turberville and falconry books originating in the United Kingdom are now probably the mostly widely read of all. Falconry’s decline was rapid in the 18th century and was restricted to a few landowners who employed Dutch falconers. Enthusiastic falconers revived falconry again by forming the Old Hawking Club in 1872, and the BFC in 1927. Happily, falconry never died out completely in Britain. The country became a repository of falconry knowledge that helped contribute to a reawakening of the sport elsewhere in later years.

In Britain today they still practise specialised forms of very traditional falconry. Grouse hawking attracts falconers from all over Europe to Scottish moors. Rook and crow hawking, the modern equivalent of heron hawking, still continues on Salisbury Plain and in Northumberland and Devon, sometimes from horseback. A few falconers still fly merlins at their traditional quarry, skylarks. There are numerous clubs; the BFC is the largest, with around 1500 members. Falconry is more popular in Britain today than at any time over the last three centuries. Despite this—or rather because of it—its cultural heritage is at risk.

In **Ireland** falconry was already familiar by late Celtic times (7th century on), but written references are more to the monetary value of hawks than to descriptions of the sport, pointing at an export trade rather than a native use. Falconry was responsible for the earliest legislation protecting raptors, there are references in the Brehon Laws Ireland supplied the nobility of Western Europe with peregrines and goshawks until the end of the 19th century and the aristocracy of several nations brought their hawks there to hunt. An Irish Hawking Club was formed in 1870 at a meeting chaired by Lord Talbot de Malahide. Maharajah Prince Duleep Singh, a familiar figure in falconry circles across two continents, pledged £50 to its founding. There

has been a strong tradition of flying the sparrowhawk in Ireland and Irish falconers have enjoyed international renown.

In **France**, falconry reached its heights of complexity, scale and magnificence in the seventeenth century under Louis XIII. His falconry consisted of 300 birds, subdivided into six specialised équipages: for the flight at the heron, the flight at the kite and the crow, the flight at the river, the flight at the partridge, and so on. Numerous paintings, tapestries and works of literature survive from this period. It slipped off the law after the revolution when a scribe neglected to include falconry in the list of acceptable hunting techniques in 1844 hunting legislation and although it continued under the Empire there was no legal provision for it. A revival came after the last war. In 1945 the Association Nationale des Fauconniers et Autoursiers Français (ANFA) was formed. It aimed to legalise, revive and popularise falconry and protect raptors. It was instrumental in obtaining full legal protection for French birds of prey. Today, ANFA has around 300 members, who fly a wide variety of hawks and falcons.

France has a special significance for the cultural heritage of falconry. In 1999 it submitted the Pierre-Amédée Pichot collection at the Museum of Arles for inclusion in the UNESCO World Register; it is undoubtedly among the most significant falconry-related archives in the world. The International Musée de la Venerie in Gien also has a falconry collection, including significant fine art and tapestries.

Falconry reached **Italy** from three different routes; from Arab falconers through the Norman Court in Sicily; from the north through German influence, and through Venetian contacts with falconers in Asia and the Orient. A wealth of literature, art and records exists on falconry in both medieval and early modern times. Among the most famous—or infamous—falconers of the period include Lorenzo di Medici, Lucrezia Borgia, Francesco Foscarelli, the Doge of Venice, and Cardinal Orsini. And of course, the most famous falconer, claimed by both Italy and Germany, Federico II, Holy Roman Emperor (1154-1250).

By the 1900s falconry had almost died out in Italy. The publication of falconry books by Chiorino and Filastori in 1906 and 1908 helped reawaken an interest in the sport. Today, Italian falconers fly longwings at pheasant, partridge, quail, crows and magpies, and goshawks at rabbits and hares. Classical game hawking is exceptionally hard to practice, due to competition for land with strong shooting interests.

Italian museums with important falconry collections include the Castel del Monte and Castello di Melfi, both in Bari, the Fortezza del Girifalco in Arezzo and the Vatican library in Rome. Castello di Melfi is of particular importance; it was Frederick von Hohenstaufen’s castle and continues to host an annual falconry field meeting. There are 31 official falconry clubs affiliated to one of the three large falconry federations or unions. As in other countries, falconers have pioneered conservation reintroduction programmes for peregrines and eagle owls.

Germany: the period from 500 to 1600 saw the zenith of falconry in Germany. Particularly notable past German falconers include, of course, Emperor Frederick II, and the fanatical eighteenth-century falconer Margrave Karl



Wilhelm Friedrich von Brandenburg-Ansbach. By 1890, however, only a single hawking establishment remained in Germany, that of Baron C. von Biederman. A small number of falconers practised the sport in near-isolation until a falconry revival began in 1923, and the establishment of the Deutscher Falkenorden and today the DFO is a thriving organisation with over 1000 members and is the oldest falconry club in the world. The Orden Deutscher Falkoniere has around 250 members, and the Verband Deutscher Falkner, a former GDR club, has approximately 100 members.

German falconry is highly legislated. Falconers must pass a hunting examination and a falconry examination. They must also have permission to hawk in a hunting district, often difficult and expensive to obtain. Only three of the 15 native German raptors are permitted in falconry: the golden eagle, peregrine and goshawk and no falconer may own more than 2 individuals of these native species. The most commonly flown hawks in Germany are Goshawks (about 60%), then peregrines (about 15%), Harris hawks, redtails, eagles and other falcons make up the remainder.

German falconry remains highly traditional. Dedicated hunting-horn music is played to greet falconers when they arrive at falconry meets, when they depart to the field to hunt, and to honour the quarry as it is laid out by torch or firelight at the end of the day. After the meet, falconers attend a celebratory feast, hawk on fist. Falconry in Germany is often under intense political pressure from anti-hunting organisations, but falconers have met these challenges well and have underlined their commitment to the environment by assuming a proactive role in conservation. The peregrine breed-and-release scheme founded by Professor Christian Saar and the DFO, following the example of the Peregrine Fund, has proved so successful that he has been honoured with a medal from the German government for his work.

In **Denmark**, 6th century documents record that Rolf Krake and his men on a visit to King Adils in Uppsala each carried a falcon on his shoulder. Remains of hawks are found in the graves of important Vikings. Later on in 985 there is a record of 100 marks and 60 hunting falcons paid in annual levy by Hakon Jarl to Harald Blåtand as rental for a part of Norway. King Knud the Holy (1040-86) was a competent falconer as were several kings up to Frederik the Second (1559-88) who established a royal falconry. In 1662 Crown Prince Christian, later King Christian V, spent some time at the court of Louis XIV and on his return to Denmark founded a small falconry. A royal mews existed till 1810 and the last royal hunt with falcons was in 1803 to mark a visit by the Duke of Gloucester.

Both Iceland (Danish territory) and Norway were well known for gifts of goshawks and gerfalcons to foreign sovereigns. In the 18th century at least five shipments of falcons were sent to the Emperor of Morocco. No less than fifty different courts, received these presents. In 1764, 50 falcons went to the French King, 30 to the German Emperor, 60 to the King of Portugal, 20 to the Landgrave of Hesse and 2 to the French Ambassador. Gifts of falcons to France continued until a few months before the execution of Louis XVI when the falconry in Versailles was abolished (1793). The last time the Emperor of Morocco received falcons was in 1798 and the Portuguese court in 1806.

In modern times a few people kept falconry alive in Denmark after the cessation of royal patronage, but so few that the Hunting Act of 1967 effectively prohibited it. The Danish Hawking Club quickly established good relations with politicians and civil servants and is working hard to reverse this ban.

Central and Eastern Europe form a distinct region of influence – for much of recorded history forming or being part of a single empire, whether Czech-Moravian, Austro-Hungarian, Germanic or even in the former Soviet Block.

Many sovereigns immortalised their favourite falcons by showing them on coins, the Silver Dinar of Béla the IV, King of the House of Árpád (present day Hungary). On one side of the coin you can see a hawk catching a rabbit. There is also a falconer on horseback on a coin from 12th century Czech-Moravia and on the current Hungarian 50 Florin coin there is falcon. A wide spread legend in Eastern Europe is the “Turul” cycle, which cannot even be understood without a significant knowledge of falconry. The huge amount of medieval paintings that still exists in the region indicates the great impact falconry had on the development of fine.

We know, that birds of prey used for falconry were very important goods of exchange of medieval trade and Eastern European sovereigns regularly imported gyrfalcons from Scandinavia, Iceland or Northern Siberia and other falcons from Southern Europe and Northern Africa. Trading with falcons was a significant part of medieval commerce and involved entire families. Whole villages specialized in catching, training and trading of falcons and falconry-related handicraft, hand manufacturing of hoods, gloves, satchels, leg straps was practiced to a high artistic level. Hungary has been famous from medieval times to the present day for highly artistically decorated equipment and falconers are still making these items in an almost unchanged form.

From 16th. century Transylvania, during the Turkish occupation, sakers were regularly delivered to the Turkish Sultan. This tax, paid annually in return for peace, was called “Falco nagium”. Sales contracts have even been found where the parties mentioned exact cliffs where the falcons had nests, stipulating to the new buyer he would have to give the seller young birds from the nest each year for a set time.

The present-day **Czech** Falconers’ Club of the Czech-Moravian Hunting Union is one of the largest and most influential of the central European clubs and has researched the history of falconry in the region. The earliest artefact is a 5th century clip in the shape of a falcon, now in the National Museum in Prague. The Fulda Annals report Prince Svatopluk rejoicing in his hunting falcons around 870 AD and later (13th century) the city of Sokolov began near the site of the Falcon’s Manor of Loket Castle. NBthe Czech word “sokol” = falcon. Another falconry at Poděbrady continued until the 17th century with patronage of the Emperor Ferdinand 1st and his son Ferdinand the Vice-Regent of Prague. Falconry held on with one or two dedicated individuals until 1967 when 71 falconers and guests founded the present club.

Canada, the United States of America and Mexico: the nature of the early American settlers and their struggles to establish themselves militated against the practice



of falconry. Despite their desperate struggle just to survive, we do find at least one record of falconry among the initial settlers; in 1622 an attorney, Thomas Morton arrived in New England and left in his writings accounts hawks and falconry in the New World. Subsequently, in the 1650's a Jan Baptist sent back to Holland for his falcon and flew her at quarry in the Hudson Valley. Even farther south, there is an allusion to the hawk trained by one of Cortez' captains early in their stay in the Valley of Mexico. Of all those early Europeans in North America, falconry might most logically have been found among the Spanish in Mexico. Falconry, on the wane in Spain, still represented a legitimate and "noble" pastime for these nouveau elite in Mexico. The first Viceroy of New Spain, Velasco, had a falcon so tame that he rode with her unhooded on his fist. His son, Luis de Velasco II, employed a royal falconer to look after his birds.

American Falconry in the Twentieth Century: Colonel R. L. "Luff" Meredith is recognized as being the "father" of American falconry. Among other notable figures were Dr. Robert M. "Doc" Stabler, Alva Nye, the twin brothers, Frank and John Craighead, and Halter Cunningham. In the 1940s they formed the Falconers' Association of North America, which ceased due to the Second World War. These men possessed the traditional bird of falconry, the peregrine. The peregrines were taken from local eyries, but falconry for them in those early years was mere possession of hawks, because they did not advance to the stage of hunting game until much later for some of them. Their countryside was not suitable for longwing falconry. Though Meredith had visited British and European falconers and the Craigheads spent several months hawking and hunting with an Indian prince, actual hawking for the most part escaped these men as the logical step after training a bird. In the 1960s, after the founding of the North American Falconers Association (NAFA), true game hawking exploded across the continent and the ubiquitous red-tailed hawk became a mainstay and a decade later the Harris hawk was "discovered".

In Mexico, Guillermo José Tapia was the president of the Asociación Mexicana de Cetrería, formed in the 1940s. Later in 1964 Roberto Behar became involved in falconry and had the opportunity to travel and contact international falconers - Renz Waller, Kinya Nakajima and Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente.

Because there is neither a sociological nor cultural basis for falconry in North America, most falconers became interested in falconry because of their interest in hunting, the outdoors, or an abiding curiosity in natural history. Most of the significant North American raptor biologists began their careers as falconers. Many of them, including Tom Cade, continue to be avid game hawkers. The scientific and conservation endeavors undertaken by the falconers of North America towards the peregrine's recovery are often referred to as the greatest conservation biology success story of the Twentieth Century.

Falconry's most recent expansion has been to South Africa where it went with colonists. Of the 59 diurnal raptors, 31 species have been flown for falconry purposes with variable success and game birds include guinea fowl, francolin, quail, sand grouse and duck. Furred quarry includes scrub hares and spring hares. There is evidence of an ancient culture, with an economy based on agriculture and trade in gold and ivory. There was pre-Islamic Arabic influence

on the earlier ruins and trade existed with outsiders, including India, China and Persia. The largest of the stone complexes is The Great Zimbabwe in the centre of Zimbabwe, near the town of Masvingo. In the site museum is a metal object identified as an "Arab Falconry Bell" and several soapstone birds found within the ruins.

In modern times falconry was imported to Southern Africa by a widely dispersed group of individuals who came from different origins and settled in different areas. W. Eustace Poles is the earliest, settling in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) in the early 1950s. Heinie Von Michaelis was an immigrant to the Western Cape from Germany, at much the same time and his contemporary, David Reid Henry, the well-known bird artist, settled in Southern Rhodesia (Now Zimbabwe) in the 1960s. Rudi De Wet was one of the first falconers in the Transvaal region of South Africa. He was a Methodist minister and learned about falconry while studying Chinese in an effort to become a missionary to China. He put theory into practice and became a focus for youngsters in the area who wanted to take up falconry. Falconry became more formalized and experience was gained with indigenous birds like Black Sparrowhawks, Redbreasted Sparrowhawks, Passage Lanner falcons and African Hawk Eagles. The first African Peregrines were obtained and efforts were started to breed these. The lack of structure was recognized and the Zimbabwean (Rhodesian), Transvaal and Natal Falconry Clubs were formed.

The South African Falconry Association was formed in 1990. Falconers in Southern Africa have striven to develop good relations with raptor biologists, conservationists, rehabilitators and amateur bird watchers. This has laid a good foundation for falconry today. Ron Hartley was a powerhouse in the development of falconry in Zimbabwe and is largely responsible for the good standing of falconry in the sub-region. Today there are 186 South African Falconers and the 35 Zimbabwean Falconers.

History has its uses. Falconry is not a museum piece, it is alive. We can enjoy and promote all the best of modern falconry and support its traditional forms as well. We must protect and promote these vulnerable, minority aspects and practices of falconry as precious embodiments of world cultural history. The project to have aspects of falconry recognised under the UNESCO Convention will encourage research into the social history of falconry, enrich the historical consciousness of falconers and promote and safeguard falconry for future generations.





ETHICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS CONCERNING ANIMAL WELFARE AND FALCONRY

By Prof. Dr. med. vet. Thomas Richter of the University of Nuertingen and Prof. Dr. phil. Peter Kunzmann of the University of Jena, Germany



Every type of interaction humans have with animals at the moment is being tested and scrutinised by society. This is true for hunting and especially for hawking as well. The present paper shall evaluate whether hawking and falconry go morally and biologically together with the ideas of animal welfare. Morality, to our thinking, is advice for how to behave properly. Morality gives the answer to the question: "how shall we act?". In the Middle Ages at the times of pope and emperor, decision making was quite easy, decisions came from the authorities. In the present day there is no universal morality left. Everybody is forced to think by themselves whether his or her behaviour is right or wrong.

In the present day I am allowed to decide many various subjects by myself personally. If I don't like the taste of spinach, I am not forced to eat some. But if my aim is to regulate the living of other people by law, I have a duty to justify the way I think. The arguments have to be reasonable and without contradiction. How much better it would be if other people could agree with my decision; in case of spinach this would fail. One basic principle in philosophy is the principle of equality. Equal things should be treated

equally, unequal things should be treated differently. A person is acting reasonably, when he or she makes decisions on comparable items in the same way (Wimmer, 1980, by Mueller, 1995, P. 87). This means: if the ethical assessment is known for a possible option of acting, and if there is a second possible option of acting comparable to the first, the assessment has to be the same. By this means we will compare the keeping of Bird of Prey with other animal keeping and hawking with other hunting methods. Ethics is that part of philosophy which does scientific research on morals. The relationship between moral and ethics is comparable to the relationship between a disease and medical science. Ethics is super-individualistic. To forbid spinach for the only reason, that I personally do not like it, would not fit into a critical overview by ethics.

In order to decide whether falconry and hawking fits to the principles of animal welfare, we have to do four steps:

1. an ethical and scientific overview concerning the quarry,
2. an ethical and scientific overview concerning the hawking birds, using the concept of Meet Demands and Avoid Damage , an ethological scheme accepted by most of the scientists dealing with animal welfare in the German speaking countries,
3. regarding the fact that there is no action done by human beings that has only positive or negative aspects, there is a comparison to be done to weigh the benefit by the human action (i.e. hawking) versus the harm it may probably cause,
4. a synopsis and conclusion.

I. Overview concerning the quarry

To ask if falconry and hawking can be accepted morally, you have first to answer the following questions:

1. is hunting acceptable at all?
2. is killing of one animal by another animal to human benefit acceptable?
3. is hawking less acceptable like other hunting methods?

To the first question:

What objections can be given against hunting? Hunting means the killing of animals. The first question is of course: is killing of animals acceptable? The killing of animals in our opinion is allowed, provided there is a justifying reason. What reasons can be considered as justifying, depends on the cultural context and the personal opinions of an individual. The range varies from no reason at all to self-defence, defence of human property, defence of nature (by pest control as well as by sustainable use of quarry for sport hunting purposes) and consummatory use (especially for human nutrition) to any reason at all.

the most usual answers to the question of what might justify killing (while hunting) are:				
no reason	just self-defence	self-defence and	self-defence and defence of human property and nature conservation and food	any reason
		defence of human property or		
		nature conservation or		
		food		



Although there is no method to verify which opinion is the one and only, but you may have a look at the consequences that occur, if you advocate one of these opinions.

- If there is no reasoning that justifies the killing of any animal, than you must not take a drug if you are occasionally infected with a tapeworm.
- If 'only in self-defence' is acceptable as justifying reason, you may kill the tapeworm and you may even kill the fox, if you can show, that it endangers you with *Ecchinococcus multilocularis* or rabies.
- If defence of human property is acceptable as a justifying reason, you may kill different animal species causing problems, for example rats and mice, wild pigs which are a big item of farmers concerning crops and wild rabbits that destroy railway installations, campgrounds or graveyards.
- If nature conservation is acceptable as justifying reason, you may control predators to avoid the extinction of rare species (like fox-control in Germany to protect the last Grouse-Populations) as well as saving white rhinos in the Southern Africa for hunting purposes.
- If consumption of animal products (like meat, fur or skin) is acceptable as a justifying reason, then it must be allowed to use wild animals as well. By the way, harvesting wild animals usually does mean less suffering for the animals than the use of farm-animals, which mostly are kept under quite poor circumstances.

Now you can decide, what consequences you personally are willing to bear, and you can ask your compatriots what their opinion is. In Western Europe, to accept the killing of animals for self-defence, defence of property, nature conservation and nutrition supply is common sense for most of the people.

We are coming now to the second question, whether it is allowed to use an animal to kill others. The most common predator that kills animals for human benefit, is the cat that catches mice. It is our duty to study if the mice-catching of a cat – lets say to a farmers benefit – is more acceptable morally than catching rabbits with a goshawk by a falconer. Indeed there are two substantial differences between these two cases – but in both cases the goshawk has an advantage over the cat. First the cat does not respect closed seasons and catches for example lactating mother-mice with the result that the dependent offspring will die. The second problem is that cats do not respect nature protection laws and do catch protected species like songbirds as well. If there is consensus among people, that catching mice by a cat is acceptable, we can see no reason, why catching rabbits with a goshawk (or partridges with a peregrine and so on) should be immoral.

In order to give an answer to the third question, if hawking is more immoral, than other hunting methods, we shall compare it with hunting by using a gun. This comparison leads to better results for the hawking method. The hawk is part of nature and the quarry knows it very well. Both hawk and quarry share a long period of evolution. Hawking is silent, it disturbs only the potential quarry, and not other wild animals and it involves the human to a much lesser extent than shooting. Additionally it is worth to mention, that the absence of lead-shot leads to less pollution for the environment. From an ecological point of view hawking is the less disturbing hunting method.

Killing and injuring: while shooting quarry animals that are injured but not killed immediately escape occasionally. They will die after a certain time with significant suffering. This is very unlikely while hawking. The hawk catches the quarry properly or it will escape unhurt. Falcons kill their prey quickly, quarry captured by a short wing, can usually be reached and killed by the falconer within seconds. There is no risk for humans being injured due to hunting, if hawking is the method. There is even no risk for human property becoming damaged. For this reason falconers are quite popular if the aim is to reduce rabbit-populations in graveyards, industrial areas or camping grounds. Another interesting possibility is to chase away crows, seagulls or herons from airfields, rubbish tips or fish farms. For this means it is often successful just to let a falcon fly, to cause the birds to leave the area.

II. Overview concerning hawking birds

In order to decide whether there are special problems in keeping and training hawking birds, you have to deal with the following questions:

1. is keeping of animals, especially of "wild animals" in the hands of man acceptable?
2. is the special kind of keeping and training of birds of prey used by falconers acceptable?

"wild" versus "domestic" animals

Most citizens do accept the keeping of animals. This is verified by the enormous number of pets that are kept, assessment tells that 100 million pets are kept privately in Germany alone. Humans do have a big urge to live together with animals. The position "the one who loves animals does not keep animals" is only shared by a minority of our fellow citizens.

This leads to the sub question if the keeping of animals whose conspecifics are usually living in nature ("wild animals") is allowed or just the keeping of domesticated animals? This is also accepted by the majority of our compatriots, think of the huge amount of fish kept in aquariums, as well as parrots, reptiles and amphibians, virtually all of them wild. We need also to clarify whether the status of being member of a (sub)species living usually in the wild constitutes a special status. Following the principle of equality – that means using moral principles – you have to refuse this idea.

Every animal in human hands has to be cared for properly, with no difference between "wild animals" and "domestic animals". A special moral status of "wild animals" has to be refused as well, if you take biological points of view into account. There is no evidence that there have been new behavioural patterns raised up by domestication, only an increase or decrease of intensity in existing behaviours. The criteria for animal welfare can not be how long an animal or its ancestors have been kept in the hands of man, but whether it is possible to fulfil the demands of the animal while it is being kept. In other words, whether the housing conditions are suitable for the adaptability of the animal or not. To give an example: we can see no problem keeping an animal of a usually free living (sub)species if there is no evidence of suffering, damage or pain. However, to keep a domestic horse that shows stereotypical behavioural problems like wind-sucking, or has injuries at the hoof, because of being reared in an impoverished environment is, in our opinion, a big welfare problem.



Meet Demands and Avoid Damage Concept

As a tool for the decision whether falconry has a significant relevance to animal welfare, one can use the concept of *Meet Demands and Avoid Damage*. This concept was elaborated by a group of Swiss and German ethologists (ethological working group of the German Veterinarian Society, Tschanz et. al., 1987) and first published in 1987. At present it is the most often used method to decide whether a certain phenomenon has an animal welfare relevance or not.

The concept of *Meet Demands and Avoid Damage* arises from the assumption that every organism is able to self-creation and self-maintenance. Whether an animal can manage self-creation and self-maintenance sufficiently can be evaluated if the animal is able to fulfil its demands and prevents itself from damage. The animal uses for these aims its physiological, morphological and ethological equipment acquired by evolution and by individual ontogenesis. With this equipment animals use or avoid structures and conditions in their environment (if an animal is kept, the structures and conditions are ruled by men). If the adaptability of an animal is overstretched, physiological, morphological and/or ethological damage will occur. Physical damage can be seen easily with, mostly even without knowledge about that animal species, and there is no dispute about the relevance of the injury to the welfare of the animal. Ethological damage will be recognised as disturbed behaviour like stereotypes. It is most often not so easy to detect, and there is much more discussion, whether disturbed behaviour does really indicate poor welfare. The concept of *Meet Demands and Avoid Damage* claims if there is a significant amount of injured or damaged individuals correlating to a certain keeping or managing system, this system will be recognised as not compatible with the approach of animal welfare. For this judgement the seriousness of the damage is to be taken in consideration as well.

In order to answer the second question we shall have a view on the methods used by falconers typically. At first is to say, that during the moult period the birds are mostly kept in aviaries (or so called moulting pens). During the hunting season, especially previous to the hunting act, the bird will mostly be tethered at both of the two legs and fixed to a perch or the fist. The so called falconry method is only justified for birds engaged in hunting that are also allowed to fly freely and often during the season. (By the way: while keeping other species of pets, tethering is a very common method for leading an animal as well and is completely accepted morally. Nearly all dogs and a lot of cats are led by collars and leads, horses wear a halter and are steered by reins which force much more power to the sensible mouth than the jesses to the legs of the hawk.)

Does tethering cause suffering in the birds? Concerning the locomotion activities, most people have a wrong idea. This idea may result from human dreams of freedom (see the advertising the Marlboro Tobacco Company does worldwide) and from the behaviour of buzzards, which are sailing in the thermals. This ringing costs considerably less energy than the active flight of a peregrine or even a goshawk. And even the buzzards don't fly just for

fun. They need to soar either to look for carrion as food or to mark out their territory. Scientific results show, that Birds of Prey are very keen on saving energy by resting and avoiding flying. Wild living peregrines at the shore in the Netherlands have been observed during the winter period when a lot of quarry (ducks, seagulls etc.) is available easily. They flew on the average one and a half minutes per day - just enough to catch a duck (Bednarek, 2002), then they rested, till hunger grew the next day and they hunted again for about one and a half minutes. Falconers are very interested that their birds are very well trained physically, because a less fit bird will not catch as much quarry, if any. They take a lot of care that their birds have a lot of flight opportunity and experience.

The training of the hawk firstly means taming. Even if this is quite different between the various species of Birds of Prey used for hawking, it just can be done by patience. Negative sanctions like those used a lot in the training of dogs and horses for example, are deadly bad for the learning process in Birds of Prey. All birds have in common, that they are much less capable of learning than mammals. They are basically too "stupid" to understand sanctions. They would only become frightened as a result. If we accept the training of dogs or horses for human purposes, we have to accept the training of birds of prey even more.

Birds of prey, no matter if they are living freely or together with men, do not hunt unless they are hungry (or mating or rearing offspring). Birds of prey, like all predators, are capable to eat much more than the demand for one day, if they had the luck to hunt successfully. While hawking the falconer has to control the food intake of the bird carefully to keep it still motivated, but strong enough to hunt successfully. If this food management is done carefully, the bird is in the same condition like its conspecifics in the wild. If we are asking whether feeding a bird less food than it could eat as a maximum can be accepted morally, we have to compare the feeding of birds with the feeding of other animals and even of humans. A lot of animals have a controlled diet to get them at a maximum rate of fitness. We are not able to see a moral difference between feeding a diet that fulfils the demands but prevents from becoming too fat, to birds, or to dogs, horses or (wo)men.

Using the Meet Demands and Avoid Damage Concept we can state:

Successful hunting falconers birds do not show physical damage in general. There is just a single pathological problem left, that had been cause of a severe illness, the so called bumble-foot disease. This occurred especially in wild caught (passage) falcons. The reason is supposed to be a too rapid change in metabolism (Heidenreich, 1996) additionally are poor perches discussed (Trommer, 1992). Bumble-foot can be prevented by good housing, food and management in captive bred and wild caught birds. Successful hunting with birds of prey presupposes they are in perfect condition.

Disturbed, especially stereotypic behaviour (see Lawrence and Rushen, 1993), as we do know very well from domestic and non-domesticated animals kept under poor environmental circumstances, like weaving, wind-sucking and

²² By a biological point of view domestication creates no new species, the animal remains a member of the original species (dogs of the species *Canis lupus*, pigs of the species *Sus scrofa*), therefore you just talk about wild or domesticated subspecies.



crib-biting in horses, bar-biting in sows or feather-picking in poultry and parrots has not been recognised in falconry birds. There is no evidence that their ethological needs are not met by the keeping and training typical for falconry. And even if you face falconry from an aesthetic point of view, you will find no contradiction. As far as we know, animals have no thirst for freedom. Hawking is the very best example of a voluntary cooperation between an animal (who's conspecifics live freely) and a human being. I personally am fascinated by hawking, because the hawk has to be physically and by its behaviour fit at a very high level, to be a successful hunter. And this successful hunter accepts to cooperate with little me by a positive learning experience. The bird cooperates even if it flies completely free, it could fly away easily and – as a successful hunter – it could survive without problems in the wild. All keeping of animals requires resources of material and of knowledge. Successful falconers prove that they have access to these resources, otherwise they wouldn't be successful.

III. Advantages

There are no particular animal welfare problems with falconry. Furthermore we can see some significant benefits resulting from it:

1. Benefit for Humans: falconry is a great pleasure for a lot of people – in Germany it belongs to the constitutionally protected freedoms (by High Court Ruling). The tame hawk with undisturbed behaviour is a great chance for science. Most of the knowledge we have about the behaviour of hawks, especially of the reproductive behaviour, comes from trained birds.
2. Benefit for Nature Conservation: It was only the intimate rational and intuitive knowledge falconers have from their birds, especially from their ethology, gave us the chance to breed birds of prey successfully. This was the basis not only to serve falconers' own demands for birds, but for many release programs worldwide. Especially the peregrine populations, both in Germany and in the US, which have had a great advantage from the several thousand captive bred birds that have been released to the wild.
3. Benefit for Animal Welfare: Injured or otherwise helpless birds of prey require proper medical treatment – after that they must not be released without special training based on the methods and experiences of falconers.

IV. Summary and Valuation

Weighting the pros and cons:

There is a long list of benefits from falconry. For the falconers hawking is a source of fulfilment, challenge and delight. Falconry is the most suitable hunting method from an ecological point of view. The stress for the quarry is, compared to other hunting methods, quite low.

Falconers birds are indispensable for science, especially for ethological and reproductive research. Watching the natural behaviour of a bird of prey – and hawking means nothing else – is a basis of invaluable merit. The knowledge and the engagement of falconers made the new foundation of many populations possible that had been extinct. Falconers' knowledge and techniques are the basic requirements for successful rehabilitation of injured or otherwise help-

less wild birds. Is there any obstacle? A moral disadvantage from falconry and hawking cannot be seen. From a biological point of view, there could no welfare relevance detected by the *Meet Demands and Avoid Damage Concept*. Compared with living in nature a tame hawk has a much more comfortable and secure life.

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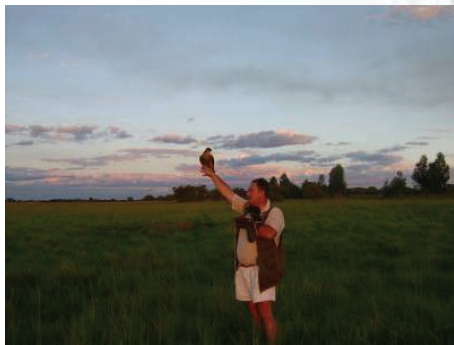
22 June 2005 Zimbabwe

Dear friends and falconers,

Just an update to let you know we are still alive and well. Sorry about the lack of correspondence on our part, but hopefully now we have overcome some of our problems and will respond quicker in future.

Our postal address has changed to:
Kuimba Shiri Bird Park
Box A1217
Avondale
Harare
Zimbabwe

Phone: + 263 91226635
Email: birdpark@mango.zw



With regard to falconry, my nephew Dylan has joined me in our breeding programme after flying birds in South Africa. He is also assisting me in flying a cast of captive bred Peregrine Tiercels and also my third intermewed imprint tiercel, Doc. We have three pairs of breeding Peregrines apart from numerous other raptors breeding in the bird park.

Our hunting areas have expanded due to the destruction of commercial farming and large areas of natural bush has taken over providing breeding and cover for much of our quarry. So out of the bad, some good has come with regard to our falconry.

Our bird park, restaurant and accommodation are doing well because a lot of Safari Camps have closed down. Should any falconers wish to visit our dark and troubled land, please don't hesitate to call us as we still live in a beautiful part of the world.

Attached are a few photos for your enjoyment.

Gary Stafford

RON HARTLEY. SOUTHERN AFRICA'S FALCONRY AMBASSADOR

There cannot be a single person, with an interest in raptors in Southern Africa, who has not been shocked and saddened by the tragic death of Ron Hartley. The loss of his vibrant personality has left a hole in the lives of all privileged to call themselves his friend. Ron was a man who lived and breathed falconry. His enormous enthusiasm and energy allowed him to cross the divides between falconers, ornithologists and conservators, bringing together the whole raptorophile community and leaving a legacy of unity that we currently enjoy in Southern Africa.

Ron was born in Livingston, Northern Rhodesia in 1950 and was brought up in small mining towns around Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). His mother was killed in a motor accident, which left Ron and his sister in a situation where they often had to fend for themselves at a very early age. When Ron started senior school he went to Plumtree, which is a boarding school in the south west of Zimbabwe. He excelled academically and was a natural sportsman. Ironically, Plumtree was a major sporting rival of Falcon College where Ron later spent much of his teaching career. It was at Plumtree that Ron started falconry. This, as many of us did in that era, by finding a bird in the bush and trying to train it according to information that he may have heard or read, with very little guidance. His father tried to discourage this "fad" by releasing the initial birds that were brought home in the holidays. He failed to damp Ron's enthusiasm and had to accept his son's passion.

Ron completed senior school and went to PieterMaritzberg University in Natal on a teaching grant. On attaining his B.A. Ron came to the University of Rhodesia to complete his teaching diploma. I clearly remember the day, arriving as a freshman in a university residence seething with the political turmoil of Rhodesia in the 1970s, and finding an eagle perched in the courtyard. I went in search of its owner and so met Ron.

Our common enthusiasm made us firm friends from then on. Ron had found the eagle in its nest, while he was working in the bush on a vacation job. It appeared to be truly stupid, in the way some eyas eagles are, and we decided to put it out to hack in the university grounds. It promptly flew away. We spent the next few days searching for the wretched bird. We were delighted to receive a phone-call to tell us that there was an eagle in a tree near the Law Faculty library, so shot down there, armed with a Balchatri and mouse. Sure enough, there was an eagle, but not the one we had lost. An immature female African Hawk-Eagle, complete with traditional jesses, came down to our trap and mantled aggressively over the mouse, waiting to be picked up. Despite our searching, we never found the previous owner, and this bird became Oswa, a legend in her time, and Ron's introduction to the Zimbabwean falconry community. Oswa stayed with Ron



for a further 8 years, taking an impressive score of night-lamped hares and giving immense fun to the many people who accompanied Ron on his "Bunny Hunts". Oswa was finally killed by a Civet Cat and was replaced by Cilla, who has been Ron's hunting companion for the past 22 years and is still going strong.

Ron progressed to flying Black Sparrowhawks and flew a series of exceptional muskets; I recall Penga (Shona for mad) Maverick and Bentley. All his birds hunted with enthusiasm, were remarkably steady, made to the hood, and renowned for their "kamikaze" tactics on quarry. The awesome reputation enjoyed by Black Spars, internationally, is due in large part to Ron's achievements with these birds.

He took up a teaching post at Umtali Boys' High School, in Zimbabwe's eastern districts in 1973. During the years of the Bush War, Ron played his part. He later moved to Falcon College in the Matebeleland province of Zimbabwe in 1983 where he was to stay until 2004 when he moved to South Africa. His teaching career progressed and he was made House Master of Chubb House at Falcon College. He married Deirdre in 1983 and they were blessed with a daughter, Emma born in 1991.

With time, his falconry developed; a brief interlude with Lanners preceded a succession of stunning peregrines, flown singly and in casts. He was the President of the Zimbabwe Falconry Club from 1984 to 1998. Ron was a perfectionist with meticulous attention to detail. He had the innate ability to interpret and interact with his birds. This is the recipe for success in falconry, when coupled with absolute dedication.

He was an outstanding teacher. He loved literature and could share and transmit this to others. I recall, as a student, sitting spell-bound, while Ron read the story of the great hunt from Tolstoy's "War and Peace", and being stimulated to go on and read the rest of the book. He started the Falconry Club at Falcon College that has won acclaim around the world. This allowed boys, who had demonstrated a real enthusiasm for the sport, to learn the ropes under a true master of the art. Ron loved this interaction. He was a strict taskmaster who did not settle for "second best" but maintained the enthusiasm of his pupils. As a result some excellent falconers were produced who continue to practice his art.

Ron's enthusiasm and love for raptors extended beyond hunting with them. He continued the raptor observations started at Falcon College by Peter Steyn, and became involved field research with broad interests. His involvement with the Taita Falcons, in association with the Peregrine Fund, made him the acknowledged expert on this species. More recently he extended his research efforts to Crowned Eagles. He has left an impressive list of over 100 publications. Under his leadership, the Zimbabwean falconers became involved in a number of raptor research and conservation projects. He continued this research work, in association with the Peregrine Fund, on relocating to South Africa and his involvement was eagerly sought in local issues.



Ron leaves his wife and daughter, his sister, and innumerable friends. We, who are left, struggle to understand our loss. Peter Steyn aptly quoted John Donne's famous sermon, at Ron's memorial service:

**.....any mans death diminishes me,
because I am involved in Mankind;
And therefore never send
to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.**

Ron's death has diminished us all. He has left shoes that are too big to wear, but his work and efforts must continue.

Adrian Lombard.





IF YOU DREAM OF A LESS COMPLICATED PEREGRINE WHY NOT TRY THIS?

THE PEREGRINE FALCON

Falco Peregrinus
by
Alexander Fried
1985-1988
Fecit

A rare sight indeed - twenty years ago sculptor Alexander Fried was commissioned to create a peregrine falcon to exact life dimensions and detail. This was his largest, most ambitious and accomplished work and took over 9,000 hours (more than 3 years) to complete.

This fine Renaissance piece captures the energy and grace of a female falcon in the crying position. The exquisite sculpture is composed of platinum, fine gold, 18 kt gold, sterling silver and cabochon rubies, emeralds and sapphires and sits on a boulder of rare rose porphyry on a black marble plinth. Now retired, Alexander Fried was registered with the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, London, from 1978 to 1988.

The following are the studio specifications:

Total height:
33" – 84 cm (including rose porphyry base)

Length:
18" – 46 cm from head to tail

Wing span:
22" – 56 cm (wings not fully extended)

Body:
15000 grams of sterling silver (925/1000 oxidized)
Feathers overlaid with platinum and fine gold



Feet & talons:
900 grams of 18 kt gold (750/1000). 24 kt gold, being too soft, could not be used because of the weight of the body.

Eyes:
Dark crystal set in 24 kt fine gold (999.99/1000)

Tongue:
14 kt red gold (585/1000)

The lanyard:
25.75 grams of 24 kt fine gold (999.99/1000) with precious stones and platinum. The traditional 'loop in loop' ¼" (6mm) braided chain is over 47" (120 cm) long and is embellished with 11 cabochon sapphires and 19 rubies set into the finials and bobbin with a further 54 antique ruby beads on the ends of the tassel and jesses. The swivel is platinum (950/1000) with cabochon rubies set in each end

The stand:
3500 grams of sterling silver (925/1000). It is wrapped with 4 bands of 24 kt fine gold (999.99/1000) into which are set 27 cabochon sapphires (top), 24 cabochon rubies (2nd and 4th band down) and six cabochon emeralds (3rd band down). There is a 'blued' and finely tapered carbon steel shaft through the centre (to support the massive weight of the bird) which slots into the boulder of rose porphyry on its black marble plinth.

A chance conversation between two artists has brought this unique sculpture out of the vaults of a London bank for private sale. For further information please contact

Nicholas and Arabella Perry,
+44 (0)1666 505 515,
email: arabella.perry@btconnect.om

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Andy Ellis



IAF makes presentation of Andy Ellis painting to Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan

By the kind generosity of Andrew Ellis, famous wildlife artist, and The Halcyon Gallery of London, IAF recently presented to his Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan a portrait of a recent Houbara hawking day. Andy's unparalleled talent captured with deep feeling the moment in the desert as the falconer attends to his much loved falcon. This extraordinary gift marked the sincere appreciation by our president Patrick Morel and the officers of IAF for the remarkable hosting of our AGM in Abu Dhabi in 2004 by the Emirates Falconers Club and Chairman of EFC, his Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan,



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